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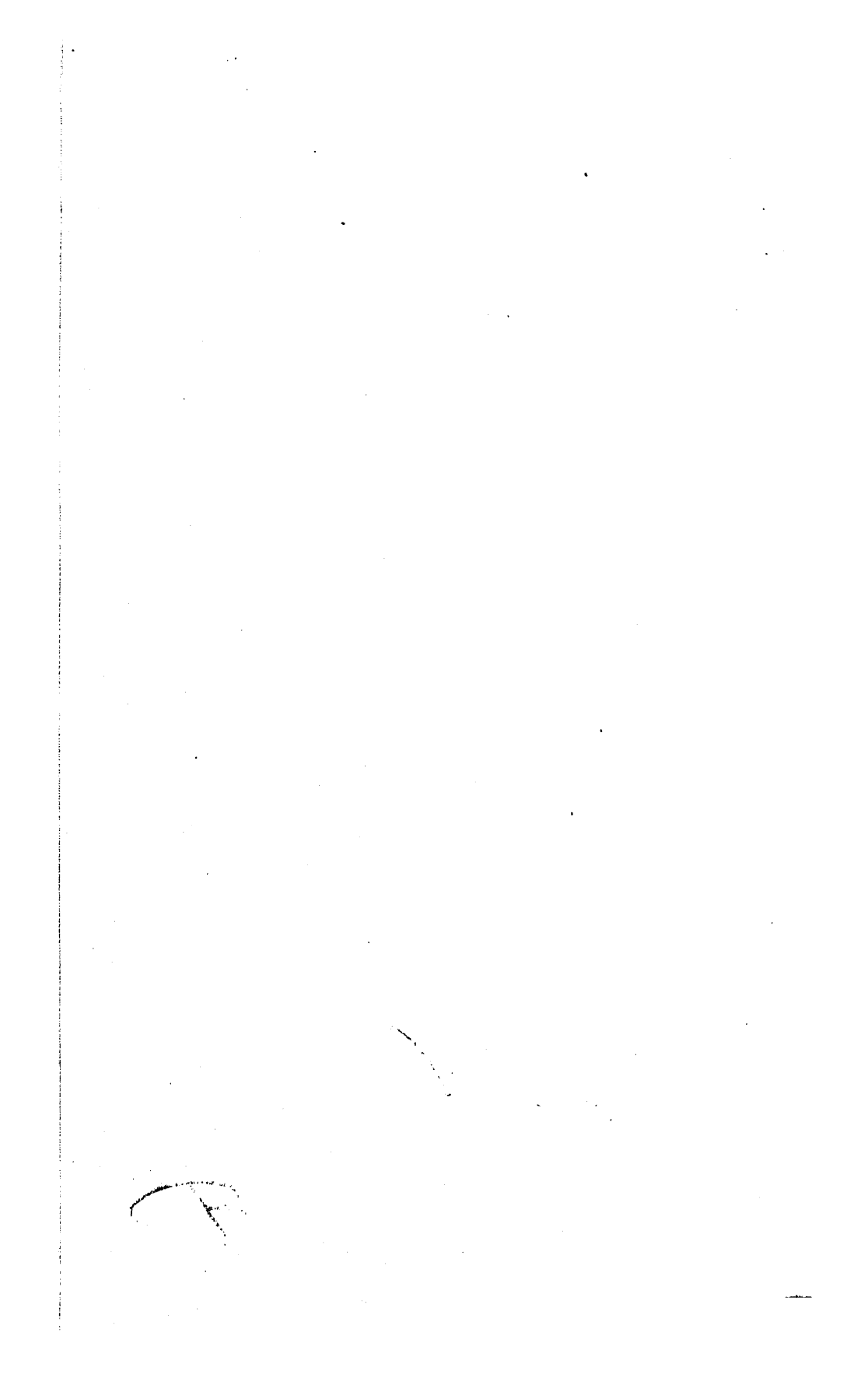
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PERSONS,
of every Age & Nation.

L O N D O N :

Printed for Harrison & Co.

Nº 18, Paternoster Row.

1794.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

LIFE is short; many are it's avocations: we shall therefore endeavour to reduce to a small but fervid focus, the scattered rays of biographical information.

The Portraits will be inimitably engraved, from the most esteemed likenesses; the Characters sketched with our best abilities, from the most authentick materials.

Thus resolved to render our work deserving of universal patronage, we shall chearfully rely, for the reward of our exertions, on that liberal encouragement, which a just and discerning nation is ever ready to bestow on productions of real worth.



Engraved by Harrison & C.º Kneller 1790.

SHAKSPEARE.

THIS transcendent poet of Nature, the glory of the British nation, was the son of Mr. John Shakspeare, a considerable dealer in the wool-trade, at Stratford upon Avon; where our immortal bard, William, the eldest of ten children, was born, on the 16th of April 1564.

After a very slight education at the grammar-school of the town, he applied himself to his father's business; and married, in his seventeenth year, a respectable young woman, in the neighbourhood, whose name was Hathaway.

The circumstance which brought Shakspeare to London is to be regretted, however we may rejoice at the consequence; being nothing less than that of having indiscreetly joined some other thoughtless young men in purloining deer from the adjacent park of Sir Thomas Lucy, who menaced a prosecution.

Whether distress, or the natural bent of his mind, led him to one of the numerous little theatres then abounding in the metropolis and its environs, is by no means ascertainable; but nothing can be more certain, than that, after some time, he was engaged to perform subordinate characters, probably in his own first dramatick efforts.

As an actor, there seems good reason to believe, that he never reached higher than the character of the Ghost, in his tragedy of Hamlet: as a dramatick writer, he soon excelled all that went before him; and, we believe, there are few persons acquainted with his productions who expect ever to see him equalled.

His native goodness of heart, and chearful and agreeable manners, were scarcely surpassed even by his exalted genius.

Having written thirty-six plays; been for a considerable time joint proprietor of the Globe Theatre, Bankside, Southwark; and acquired, by his splendid talents and assiduity, sufficient property to satisfy his very moderate views; he purchased a genteel residence at his native place, and prudently retired from the care and fatigue of business, to pass the remainder of his days with ease and tranquillity, in the rational enjoyment of a rural life.

He died the 23d of April 1616, exactly one week after compleating his fifty-second year; and was interred among his ancestors, in the great church of Stratford upon Avon.

Shakspeare's widow survived him seven years; and he left two daughters, who were both married: but his family became extinct in the third generation after his decease. His literary progeny, however, the incorruptible offspring of his immortal mind, will be dear to every grateful and susceptible bosom, till time itself shall be no more.



Published by Harrison & Co. March 1. 1790.

DR. JOHNSON.

THIS great dictator in the republic of letters, who raised himself, by the mere strength of his abilities, to the first seat of literary eminence, and continued, during life, to preserve the merited situation, with little envy, and with less opposition, was born at Lichfield, on the 7th of September 1709; where his father was a respectable bookseller.

He was a prodigy of early understanding; and, while at Lichfield school, preferred books and conversation to the usual puerile amusements.

In his nineteenth year, being sent to Oxford, he distinguished himself by his Latin verses: but was prevented from remaining long enough for a degree, by the circumstances of his father; and obliged to seek his bread, as an usher, at Market Bosworth, in Leicestershire, where he led a most miserable life, till an old schoolfellow invited him to Birmingham. At this place, he translated Father Lobo's Voyage; and, in 1735, having married Mrs. Porter, a mercer's widow, opened an academy, at Edial, near Lichfield. But meeting with little encouragement, and having written the tragedy of Irene, he quitted his school; and, accompanied by his pupil Garrick, ventured to seek his fortune in London. He soon became acquainted with Mr. Cave, the original printer of the Gentleman's Magazine; and, by his recommendation, with several booksellers, and literary characters.

In 1744, after having combated innumerable difficulties, Johnson's Life of his old companion, Savage, made it's appearance, and his literary reputation began rapidly to increase.

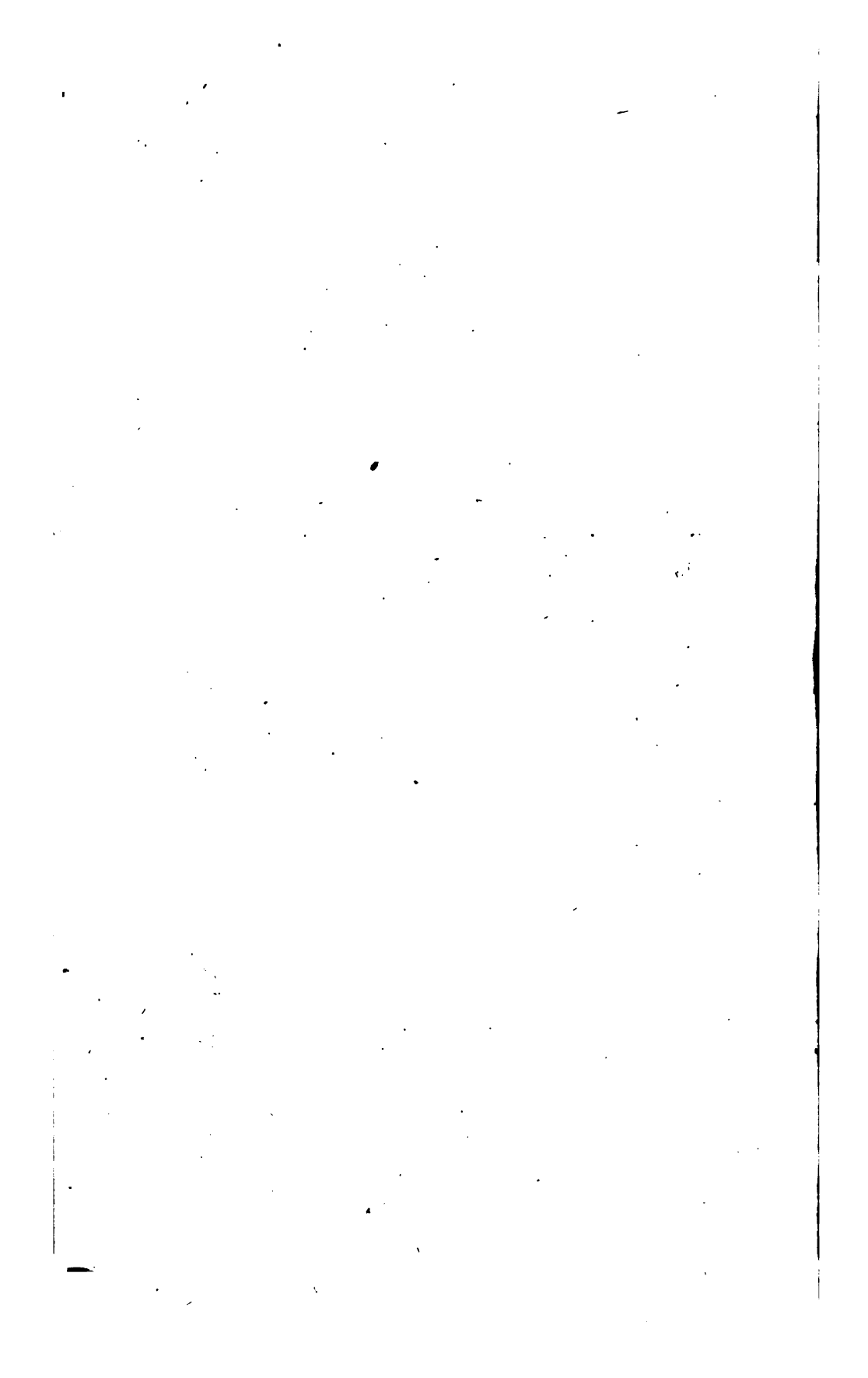
In 1746, he was engaged to compile his celebrated English Dictionary, which was not completed till May 1755. Mr. Garrick, in the mean time, brought out Irene in 1749, which was by no means successful.

His inestimable Rambler commenced in 1750. In 1753, he lost his wife; in 1758, began the Idler, and wrote Rasselas in a few days, that he might be enabled to visit his dying mother; and, in 1762, the king, to reward his extraordinary merits, granted him a pension of 300l. a year.

In 1765, he published his Shakspeare; but, from that period, till the publication of his Lives of the Poets, in 1773, he had so much indisposition, and his company was so greatly engrossed by Mr. Thrale and his literary lady, that he wrote little else than his few political pamphlets.

Dr. Samuel Johnson died on the 13th of December 1784, in the 75th year of his age, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

To say, that he, who thus excelled in the art of accumulating human wisdom, and in the talent of widely diffusing it to others, had infirmities, and even imperfections; is only to say, that he was a man: but few men have been freer from frailties, and still fewer from vice





Published by Harrison & Co. March 11, 1790.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

THIS accomplished master, who may be said to have laid the foundation of a British School of Painting, calculated to embrace the excellences of every other, was born at Plympton, near Plymouth, in the county of Devon, July 16, 1723; where his father was a clergyman, distinguished for learning and variety of knowledge.

Sir Joshua, from his infancy was fond of drawing; but did not determine to make painting his profession, till he met with Richardson's Theory. This work conveying to his mind that genial influence so necessary to awaken the dormant seeds of inspiration, he was sent to London, and placed under Mr. Hudson.

He afterwards went to Italy with Lord Keppel; and, during a residence of two years, in this splendid seat of the arts, stored his mind with those classical ideas of sublimity and elegance, which we behold in the productions of his pencil, which we read in those of his pen.

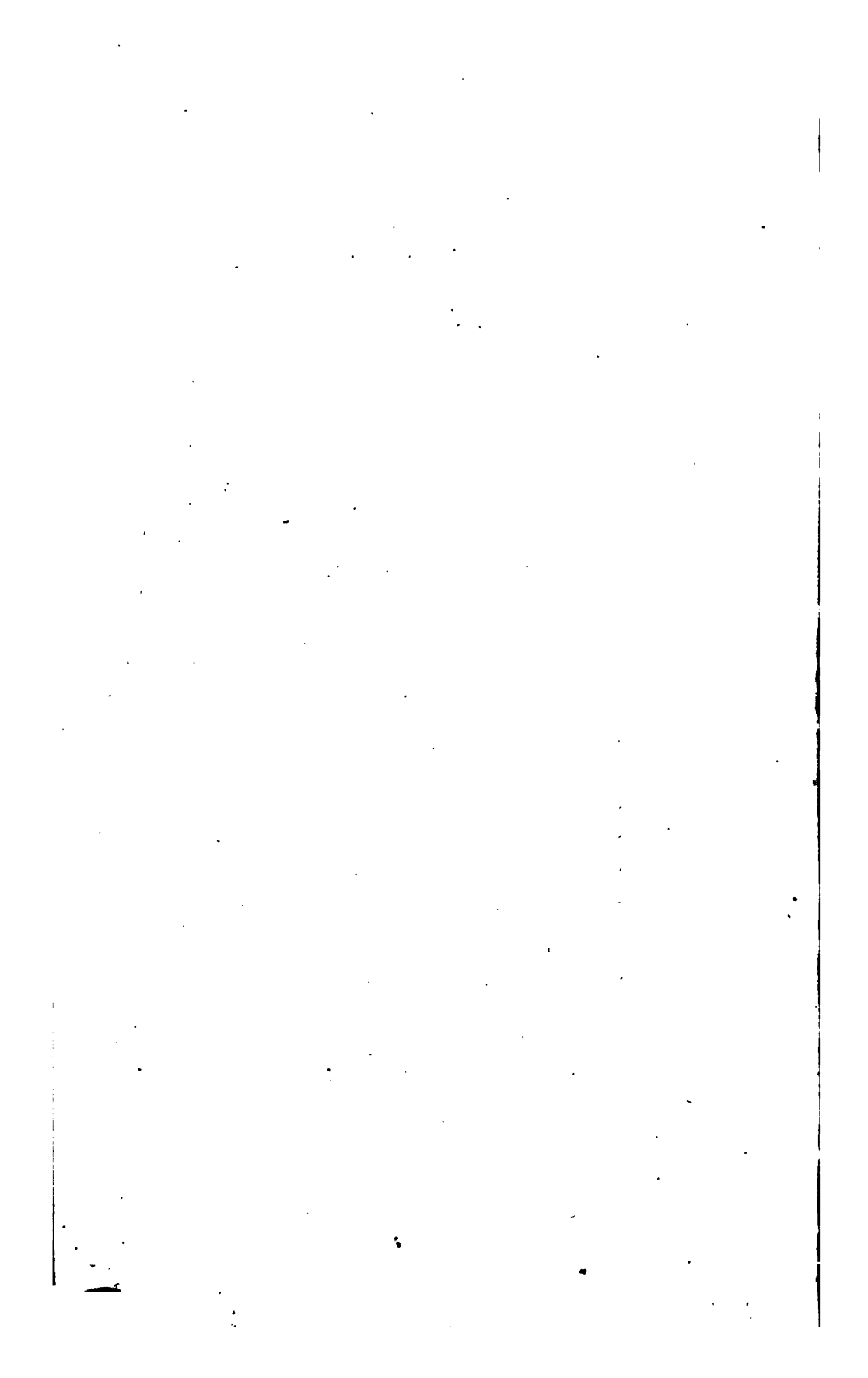
On his return to England, the whole-length of his patron, engraved by Fisher, attracted general notice: and, having painted several fashionable beauties, the polite world flocked to see them, and he soon became the most popular painter, not only in England, but in Europe. The felicitous force of his resemblances; and that combined dignity and grace, which characterize all his works; not only drew around him the chief opulence and beauty of the nation: but he was happily solicited to perpetuate the features of almost every eminent and distinguished character then living; with the greater part of whom, so attractive were his manners, as well as his talents, he preserved an intimacy, which only ended with life. In this assemblage of genius, each was improved by each.

Sir Joshua received, from his majesty, the honour of Knighthood, on being elected president of the Royal Academy; which he opened with the first of his exquisite Discourses, January 2, 1769.

Besides the three well-known Letters for his friend Dr. Johnson's Idler; Mr. Mason's elegant Translation of Du Fresnoy's Art of Painting, is enriched with Sir Joshua's valuable Annotations.

To enumerate his portraits, is not possible: his historical pictures, of which we cannot but regret there are so few, amount to about sixty.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, who was never married, died on the 25th of February 1792, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. His friends had for some time conceived, that he was low-spirited, without cause; but, on his being opened, a preternatural enlargement of the liver, to more than double the usual size, sufficiently accounted for his depression and his death. After laying in state at the Royal Academy, his remains were deposited, with great funeral pomp, beneath the centre of St. Paul's dome.





Published by Harrison & Co. March 1. 1790.

DR. ARNE.

THIS celebrated composer, whose musick has been the delight of the present, and must prove the admiration of every succeeding age, was the son of Mr. Arne, an eminent upholsterer, in King Street, Covent Garden; where Thomas Augustine was born, on the 28th of May 1710. His father, who was also father of the famous Mrs. Cibber, is supposed to be characterized by Addison, in N^o 155, and N^o 160, of the Tatler.

Young Arne was early in life placed to the study of the law; but that profession not suiting his taste, he secretly purchased an old violin, and seized every opportunity of stealing to a garret, that he might indulge his favourite propensity: till his father, accidentally visiting a concert, and seeing the young lawyer seated among the performers, consented that he should abandon the law, and pursue his inclination for musick.

He was accordingly placed under Festin, an excellent performer on the violin; and soon rivalled his master. Having thus attracted the notice of other great Italian musicians, he obtained free access to the King's Theatre; where, by the most studious attention, he acquired that perfection of taste, which was alone wanting to qualify his naturally rich fund of musical tone and expression.

At the age of eighteen, he composed Addison's Rosamond; his next work was the Masque of Alfred; and the inimitable Comus completely established his fame.

In 1736, he married Miss Cecilia Young, a very favourite vocal performer; and the degree of Doctor of Musick was conferred on him, July 6, 1759, by the University of Oxford.

Artaxerxes, the Guardian Outwitted, and the Rose, were written as well as composed, by Dr. Arne; who always insisted that he was a much better poet than a musician. His songs are esteemed standards of the genuine English ballad; and his Organ Concertos will ever remain as a testimony that his instrumental musick is not inferior to his vocal.

Dr. Arne died, the 5th of March 1778, of a spasm on his lungs. He had originally imbibed the principles of the Romish church; but all restraints of religion had been many years thrown off. In the last stages of his illness, however, he evinced the most sincere penitence; and, about an hour preceding his dissolution, sung an inconceivably harmonious Halleluja; which, from the celestial beauty of the composition, seemed calculated, as it were, to usher the pardoned sinner into the immediate presence of his Maker.

He was survived by Mrs Arne; as well as by his son, Mr. Michael Arne, who inherited a large share of his father's matchless ability.



Published by Hamilton & Co. March 11. 1794.

DAVID GARRICK, ESQ.

THIS inimitable actor, whose ability to represent, was only equalled by the genius of Shakspeare to create, all the variable characters of the drama, was born the 20th of February 1716, in the city of Hereford; where his father, Capt. Garrick, who usually resided at Lichfield, happened then to be with a recruiting party.

While he was at Lichfield grammar-school, and before he had reached his twelfth year, he contrived to get up the Recruiting Officer; and performed the part of Serjeant Kite, with astonishing spirit and vivacity.

In 1735, he became a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Johnson; who was as little inclined to teach, as Garrick to be taught: and Johnson having written the tragedy of Irene, both of them, the pupil, perhaps, in this instance becoming the preceptor, agreed to visit the metropolis together.

It was not, however, till the summer of 1741, that Garrick fairly resolved to try his fortune, under the name of Lyddal, on the Ipswich stage.

Such, and so rapid, was his celebrity, that on the 19th of October, in the same year, he appeared before a London audience, at the theatre in Goodman's Fields; when his wonderful excellence made such an impression on the public, that the carriages of the nobility and gentry are said to have often filled up the space from Temple Bar to Whitechapel.

In 1742, he was engaged by Mr. Fleetwood, patentee of Drury Lane; from whom, in 1747, he and Mr. Lacy purchased the patent of that theatre, which opened with Dr. Johnson's famous prologue written for the occasion. About two years after, he married Mademoiselle Violetti; with whom, from 1763, to 1765, he travelled in France and Italy.

In 1769, he conducted the memorable Shakspeare Jubilee, at Stratford upon Avon. But Mr. Lacy dying, he disposed of his share of the patent in 1776, to Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Linley, and Dr. Ford; and, after gratifying his admirers, by appearing, for a few weeks, in many favourite characters, took a most affectionate and affecting leave of the public.

To enumerate the talents of Mr. Garrick would require a volume. He was, to speak generally, the most chaste actor, both in tragedy and comedy, that ever trod the stage; and there are no less than thirty-seven dramatick pieces, most of them on the stock list, which he either originally wrote, translated, or judiciously altered, and adapted to the taste of modern times. For assistance of the latter kind, even Shakspeare himself stands indebted to him.

Mr. Garrick died, January 20, 1779; and his funeral was attended by many of the nobility, and persons of distinguished talents: who saw his remains deposited in Westminster Abbey, beneath the monument of his adored Shakspeare; an honour which no person ever better merited.



Published by Harrison & W. Marshall 1794.

CAPT. COOK.

THE obscure village of Marton, in Yorkshire, gave birth to this famous circumnavigator, October 27, 1728. His father was a common husbandman; and his education nothing more than reading, writing, and the first rules of arithmetick. At thirteen, he went apprentice to a shopkeeper; but, obtaining his discharge, bound himself for seven years to a Whitby vessel employed in the coal trade.

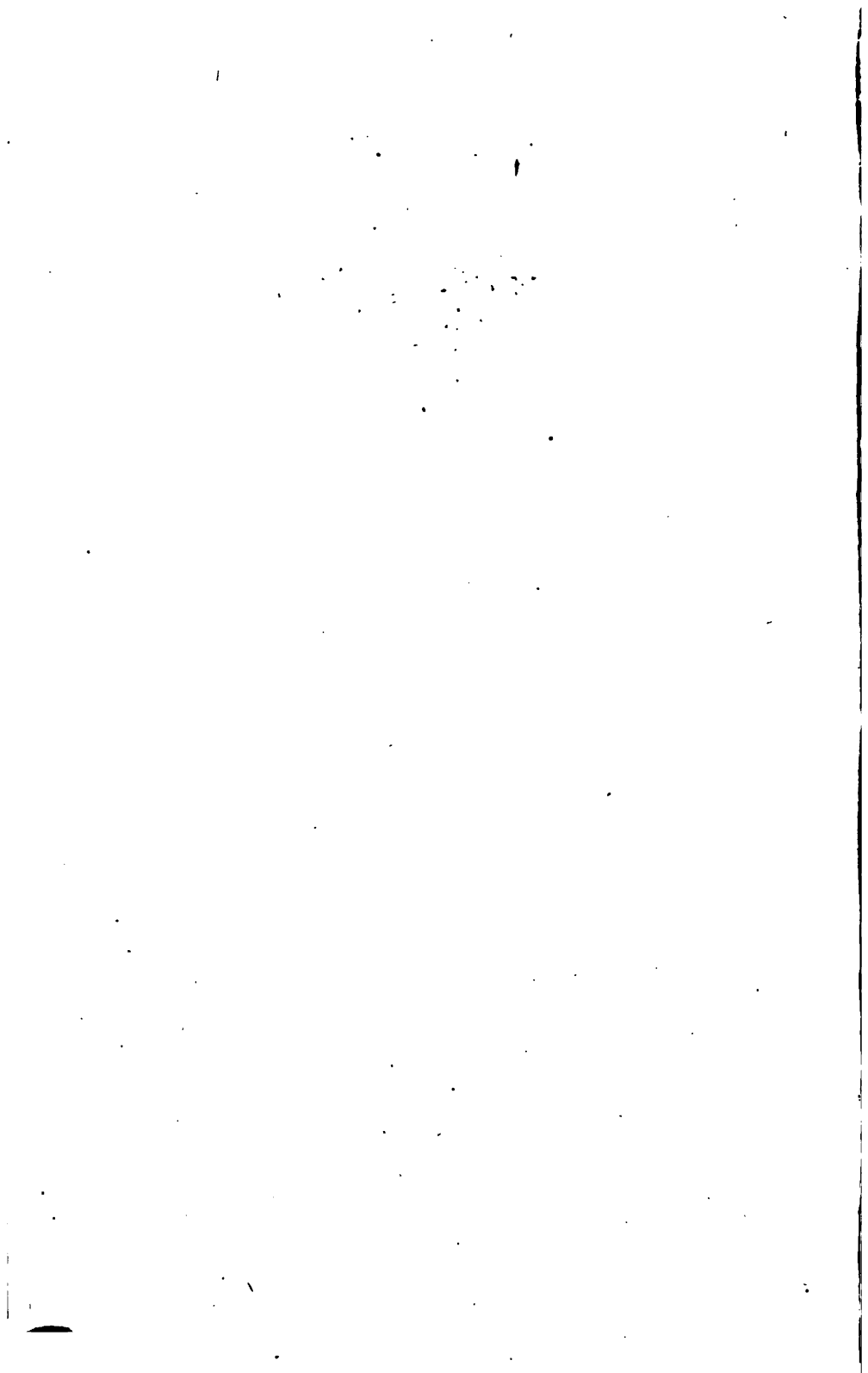
In 1755, when hostilities commenced with France, the dread of being pressed, induced him voluntarily to enter on board the *Eagle*, a sixty-gun ship, commanded by Sir Hugh Palliser; where his diligence and ability soon attracted the notice of this excellent officer: and, in 1759, Sir Hugh pronouncing him qualified, he was appointed master of the *Mercury*, and joined the fleet under Sir Charles Saunders, at the memorable siege of Quebec. On this occasion, though he had scarcely ever before used a pencil, he contrived, partly in the face of the enemy, to make a chart of the channel and soundings of the River St. Lawrence, which is esteemed so accurate, that no other has ever been published.

December 21, 1762, he married Miss Elizabeth Batts, of Barking, in Essex: and, from 1763 to 1767, was chiefly employed, by government, as marine surveyor of Newfoundland and Labrador; where he made such progress in science, that his ingenious Observation of an Eclipse of the Sun, at Newfoundland, August 5, 1766, communicated to the Royal Society, was printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*.

In July 1768, he sailed with Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander, under the patronage of the king, to make observations, in a southern latitude, on the transit of Venus over the Sun, and to explore the Pacific Ocean.

How ably he fulfilled this commission, is known to all the world: and such was his majesty's approbation, that in April 1771, he was engaged to make his second celebrated voyage, with Capt. Furneaux; for the particulars of which the Narrative of his Voyages must be resorted to.

The object of his third, and unfortunately his last voyage, was to determine the practicability of a northern passage to the Pacific Ocean, accompanied by Capt. Clerke: when sufficient evidence appeared, to demonstrate that no such passage exists; and the western boundaries of the great continent of America were completely ascertained. On his return, however, in a sudden affray with the natives, at Owhyee, one of the Sandwich islands, Capt. Cook was killed, February 14, 1779. Thus perished, by the hand of a savage, this able man; whose vigorous mind, and undaunted resolution, had conducted him through innumerable enterprises of the most imminent danger, and whose distinguished services can never cease to be remembered by a grateful and a generous nation.





Abby Harrison del. April. 1726.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

THIS prodigy of philosophical and mathematical science, was born in 1642. His father dying while he was yet a child, left him lord of the manor of Woolsthorpe, in Lincolnshire. His mother, who had not intended him for a scholar, perceiving his attachment to study, and prudently cherishing the laudable propensity, he was sent to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he gave early indications of a superior genius.

In 1665, he produced his *New Method of Infinite Series and Fluxions*; the first fruit of his boundless invention. In 1668, while meditating in a garden, the accidental fall of some apples first led his thoughts to the subject of gravity, and gave rise to his noble System of the Universe.

In 1673, he was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society; and, having brought his *Theory of Light and Colours* to great perfection, published it in their *Transactions*. The novelty of this system subverting the settled opinions of the world, he was attacked by a host of disputants; whose haste in performing his experiments, and their fallacious deductions, long harassed our philosopher. Thus he lost that tranquillity of life, which his native modesty preferred to the glory of philosophy, and was greatly deterred from communicating his farther discoveries.

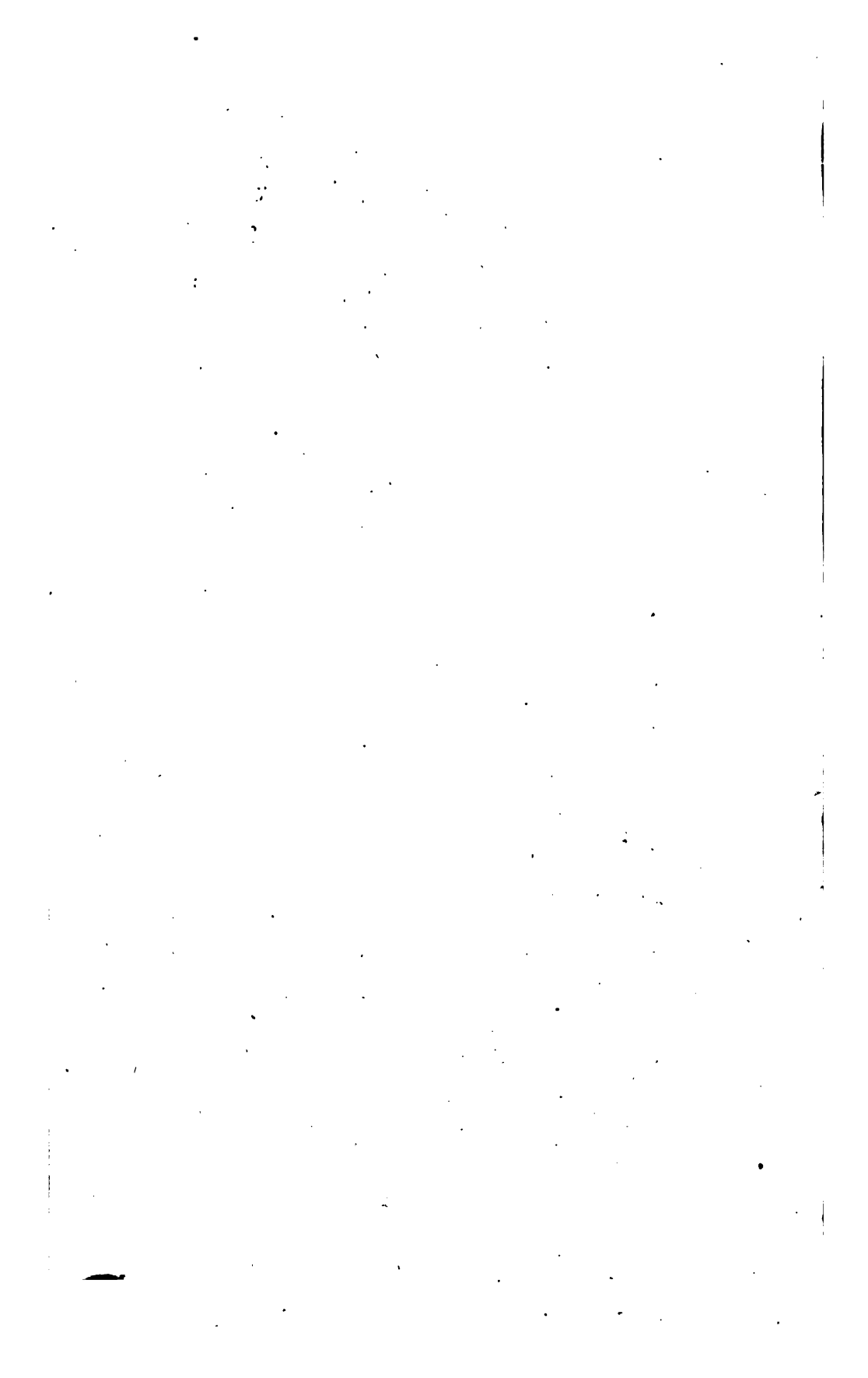
A visit from Dr. Halley encouraged him to give his celebrated *Principia*. This new system of philosophy, though built on the sublimest geometry, did not immediately meet with general applause. The fanciful theory of Descartes chiefly prevailed: his was the pleasing offspring of a fine imagination; while that of Newton was a painful and tedious pursuit of Nature through her most secret abodes. His wonderful merit, however, was at length recognized by all the world: and that famous French geometrician, the Marquis L'Hopital, scarcely believing him to be a mere mortal, enquired if he eat, or drank, or slept, like common men.

He was appointed Warden of the Mint, in 1696; in 1703, became President of the Royal Society; and, in 1704, published his *Opticks*, which had engaged his attention for more than thirty years.

He received the honour of knighthood from Queen Anne: and Caroline, Queen of George II. frequently said, that she thought herself happy to have come into the world at a time which enabled her to converse with Sir Isaac Newton.

In 1722, after long suffering the severest pangs of disease, which he bore with inconceivable fortitude, this great philosopher, who was never married, died at the age of 80, and was interred in Westminster Abbey.

Among all his books, the Bible was Sir Isaac Newton's chief favourite; and he was fully persuaded of the truth of Revelation: a praise which we could wish every mathematician equally revealed!





Publ. Harrison & Co. April 1774.

ARIOSTO.

THE poet, Ariosto, one of the most celebrated of all the Italian bards, was born, in 1474, at Reggio, in Lombardy, of a family allied to the Dukes of Ferrara.

That genius, which has rendered him immortal, displayed itself at an early age. His tragedy of *Pyramus and Thisbe* was composed while he was yet a child, and acted by his brothers and sisters.

His father, insensible to the charms of verse, was desirous of his applying to the more profitable study of the law. It is honourable to the young poet, that he acquiesced, much against his inclination, till the death of his father, when he resumed more congenial employments. He was introduced to Cardinal Hypolito, of Este; and, at the age of thirty years, inspired by the leisure in which his patron had placed him, began a work of more importance than any he had hitherto attempted.

The *Orlando Furioso* is, perhaps, really inferior to the *Jerusalem Delivered*, of Tasso, but it has more admirers; and, if every passage were separately compared with similar ones in Tasso, it is not improbable that the balance might incline in favour of Ariosto.

His Seven Satires greatly pleased in their day; but are neglected by posterity, as uninteresting. The common fate of all personal satire.

His Five Comedies, said to shew great dramatick ability, are as little known. But if he obtains not a seat near Terence, he has still the higher honour to be placed near Virgil and Homer.

Desirous of gratifying all tastes, he tried every species of composition. Terrible descriptions succeed to the most voluptuous images; which, in their turn, are followed by the sagest and most moral precepts.

His stories are inconceivable, impossible, and extravagant; but they are so well conducted, and so exquisitely written, that we pardon every extravagance, for the charms of the diction, and that exhaustless imagination which the poet continually displays.

The love of poetry did not prevent his applying himself to politicks; but, an indolent epicurean, he rather chose to quarrel with his benefactor, than accompany him to Hungary. At the death of the cardinal, he attached himself to Alphonso, Duke of Ferrara; for whom he translated the *Menechmi* of Plautus, and several French and Spanish dramas.

A feeble constitution disgusted him with life. He said, to those who were near him in his last moments, that most of his friends had departed; and that his only hope was, to meet them again. He died, in 1533, at the age of 59 years.

The Emperor Charles V. had bestowed on him a crown of laurel, in the same year—a presage of his poetical immortality!



Pub. by Harrison & Co. April 11, 1790.

SIR WALTER RAWLEIGH.

RAWLEIGH, alike eminent in the field, and in the closet, presents a life the most fertile of incidents, of all our illustrious men.

He was descended from an ancient family in Devonshire; and, while at Oxford, displayed uncommon talents, and a passion for academical studies: but the activity of his temper led him to more enterprising schemes of life. He tried his fortune both in the land and sea service.

In 1580, he was active in quelling the Irish insurgents. On his return home, being introduced at court, he gained the favour of Elizabeth, by an act of gallantry. The queen, while walking, had reached a marshy spot, which she hesitated to cross; when Rawleigh, with admirable presence of mind, and in the true spirit of chivalrous gallantry, instantly spread his rich cloak on the ground, and her majesty, smiling, passed over.

In 1583, he set out on his Florida expedition; and on his return, in 1584, was elected member of parliament for his native county. The queen, though frugal of her honours, now knighted him; and he obtained a patent for vending wines, by retail, throughout the kingdom, which is the origin of wine-licences. He first introduced tobacco into England; and on Virginia ever kept a fatherly eye.

He did great service in assisting to destroy the Spanish Armada.

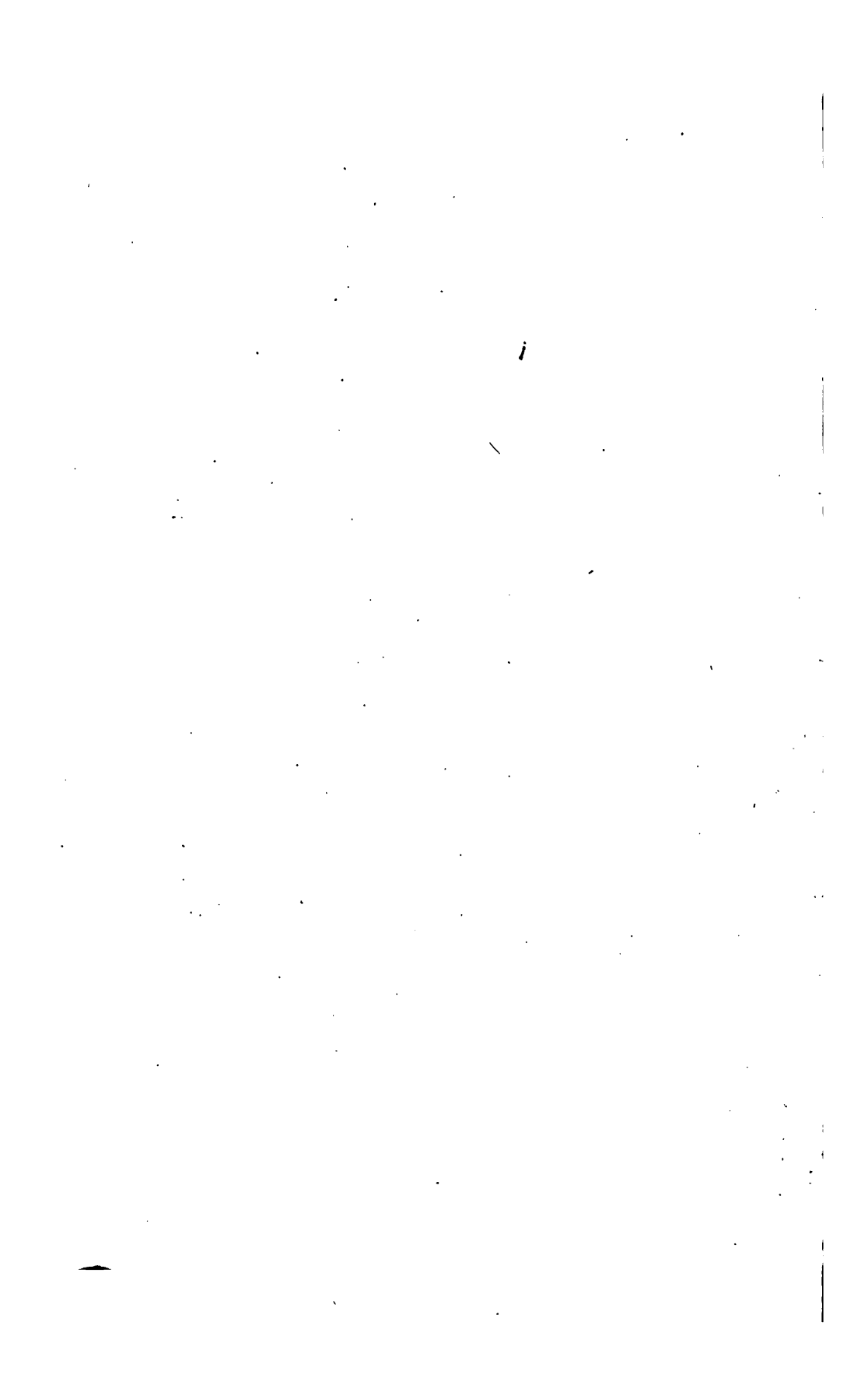
In 1589, he accompanied the expelled Antonio of Portugal, then in London, with an armament, to restore him. On his return, he brought Spenser, the poet, from Ireland, and patronized him at court.

In 1592, we see him at Panama, vanquishing the Spaniards.

On his return, he was active in the house of commons; but his too splendid merits made him many enemies.

He triumphed over all, till the death of Elizabeth. On the accession of James, he lost his interest at court. Imprisoned above twelve years under a false accusation, he enlightened the world, in the gloom of his prison, by his noble History. If he was at length released, it was a mere act of dissimulation on the part of James; for he was condemned to die, at the age of 60, on the 29th of October 1618, by one of the most flagrant acts of injustice which a despot ever committed. He made an eloquent speech on the scaffold; and his last remarkable words were these—"Pray to God for me; for I have most grievously offended, being a man full of vanity. I have been a soldier, a sailor, and a courtier; which are all courses of wickedness!" He died, as he had lived, with the wisdom of a philosopher, and the fortitude of a hero.

This illustrious man was, at once, a scholar, a statesman, a navigator, and a soldier. We know not in which to admire him most—such was the felicity and rarity of his genius!





Wren's Tomb in St Paul's April 1794

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

THIS great architect, was born on the 20th of October 1632, at East-Knoyle, in Wiltshire, of which place his father was rector. Before he was sixteen, the advancement he made in mathematical learning, at the university of Oxford, has been considered as prodigious. In 1657, he read admirable Lectures on Astronomy at Gresham College; and, in 1658, not only solved the problem proposed by the great Pascal to all the English mathematicians, but returned another to the French mathematicians, of which they never could furnish any solution.

He attained to such eminent skill in architecture, that he was called from Oxford, by Charles II. to assist Sir John Denham as surveyor general of his majesty's works. In 1663, he was one of the first Fellows of the Royal Society, after the grant of their charter.

In 1665, he travelled to France; and it is evident, from his Letters, that he surveyed every structure with the studious eye of a critic. After the fire of London, he drew an admired Plan for a new City; but private disputes hindered this publick benefit from taking place.

In 1668, he succeeded Sir John Denham as surveyor general of his majesty's works; and, in 1677, finished the Monument, which has been compared with the celebrated columns of antiquity.

In 1680, he became President of the Royal Society; and, in 1681, completed his most beautiful structure, the church of St. Stephen, Walbrook. It was in 1710, that he finished his more magnificent one, that of St. Paul's Cathedral. He was also long employed in erecting a variety of other churches and public edifices.

Sir Christopher was twice married, to ladies of family, and sat in two parliaments: but was removed from the office of surveyor general, in the eighty-sixth year of his age; a circumstance which reflects no great honour on the court. In coming from his country house, at Hampton, he contracted a cold; of which he died, in 1723, at the advanced age of ninety-one.

His private character was extremely amiable. As an architect, his learning was great, and his invention fertile: his discoveries as a mathematician were numerous. He never printed any of his works, though some have been published by his friends. This excelling artist does not derive his glory from his publications, so much as from the numerous edifices which adorn our metropolis; and which are productions that hourly attract the regard even of the most inattentive.

His remains were deposited in a vault under the dome of St. Paul's, where there is this appropriate inscription—

*Lector, si monumentum requiris,
Circumspice.*



Published by Harrison & Co. April 1. 1790.

ALEXANDER POPE, ESQ.

THIS first master of English verse, was born in London, June 8, 1688. From the earliness of his poetical efforts, his cradle may be said to have been surrounded by the Muses; and having retired, with his parents, to Binfield, in Windsor Forest, he there cultivated his talents with an ardour of study, and a maturity of taste, very far above his years.

His Pastorals introduced him to public notice. He was early taught to distinguish himself by correctness; the only quality in which English poetry, after Dryden, was conceived to have been deficient. He seized the hint; and it has rendered him unrivalled.

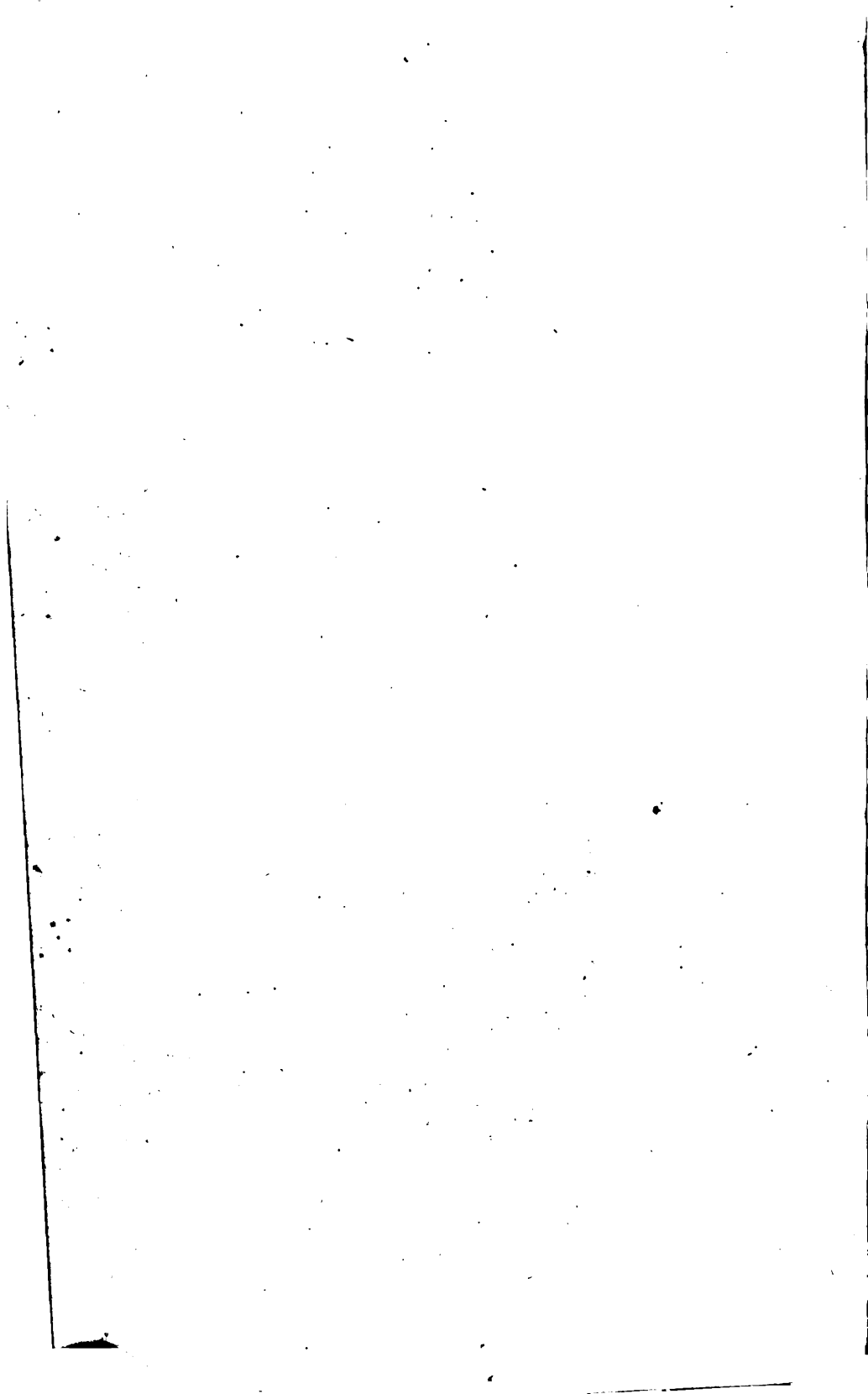
In 1708, appeared his *Essay on Criticism*. His learning and good sense were now admired; but his next poem, the *Rape of the Lock*, allured by the brilliancy of fancy, the melody of versification, and the higher requisites of poetry.

In 1713, desirous of reaping something more than barren laurels, he issued proposals for a translation of Homer's *Iliad*. Happily, it was the age of poetical patronage; and from this work, including the *Odyssey*, he derived a fortune of near 10,000*l.* the largest sum, perhaps, that any poet ever yet acquired. The lovers of poetry will not, however, consider it as equalling the singular merits of this version; which is to be regarded as a treasury of English poetry, a mine of the purest gold! He now purchased his celebrated villa at Twickenham; and retired, to enjoy the very rare, but very desirable union, of poetry and independence.

It has been lamented that, in this *Tusculum*, he should have so frequently indulged his Horatian vein of satire. But, though he produced satires, we must not forget that he also produced his *Essay on Man*: a poem which has rendered him more celebrated abroad than any other of his works; and which, indeed, is the most perfect model of didactic verse and philosophical poetry.

Many will agree, that Pope, among the English poets, resembles Virgil among the Latins. Pure, correct, and harmonious, he has oftener seized the delicacies of taste, than displayed the charming power of genius. Let it not, however, be supposed, that he was deficient in the higher qualification: his judgment would not suffer him to employ it, where it could not be employed with propriety. He has written to all ages, and to all situations; he will, therefore, be read and admired, more than those who have only addressed themselves to one description of readers.

He died the 30th of March 1744, aged 56; and was buried at Twickenham, near his father and mother, where a monument has been erected by his celebrated commentator, Warburton, Bishop of Gloucester.





Painted by Harrison & Co. April 1790.

JEAN BAPTISTE ROUSSEAU.

THIS considerable personage in the French Parnassus, was born at Paris, in 1670, where his father was a shoemaker. He need not have blushed at his origin; for his father, who was by no means poor, gave him an excellent education. At twenty, he attracted notice by the elegance and spirit of his poetry. He met with powerful patrons at court; and, more than once, refused valuable appointments: he hated constraint; and, like a true poet, was more solicitous of glory, than of gold.

In 1708, he was esteemed the first poet of France; and the pension of Boileau, and a seat in the Academy, were reserved for him. But an affair which remains to this day inexplicable, at once annihilated his fortune, and embittered the remainder of his life. Poetical libels on all his enemies were distributed as Jean Baptiste Rousseau's; and though he firmly denied these infamous productions, he was tried, and banished, by the Parliament of Paris.

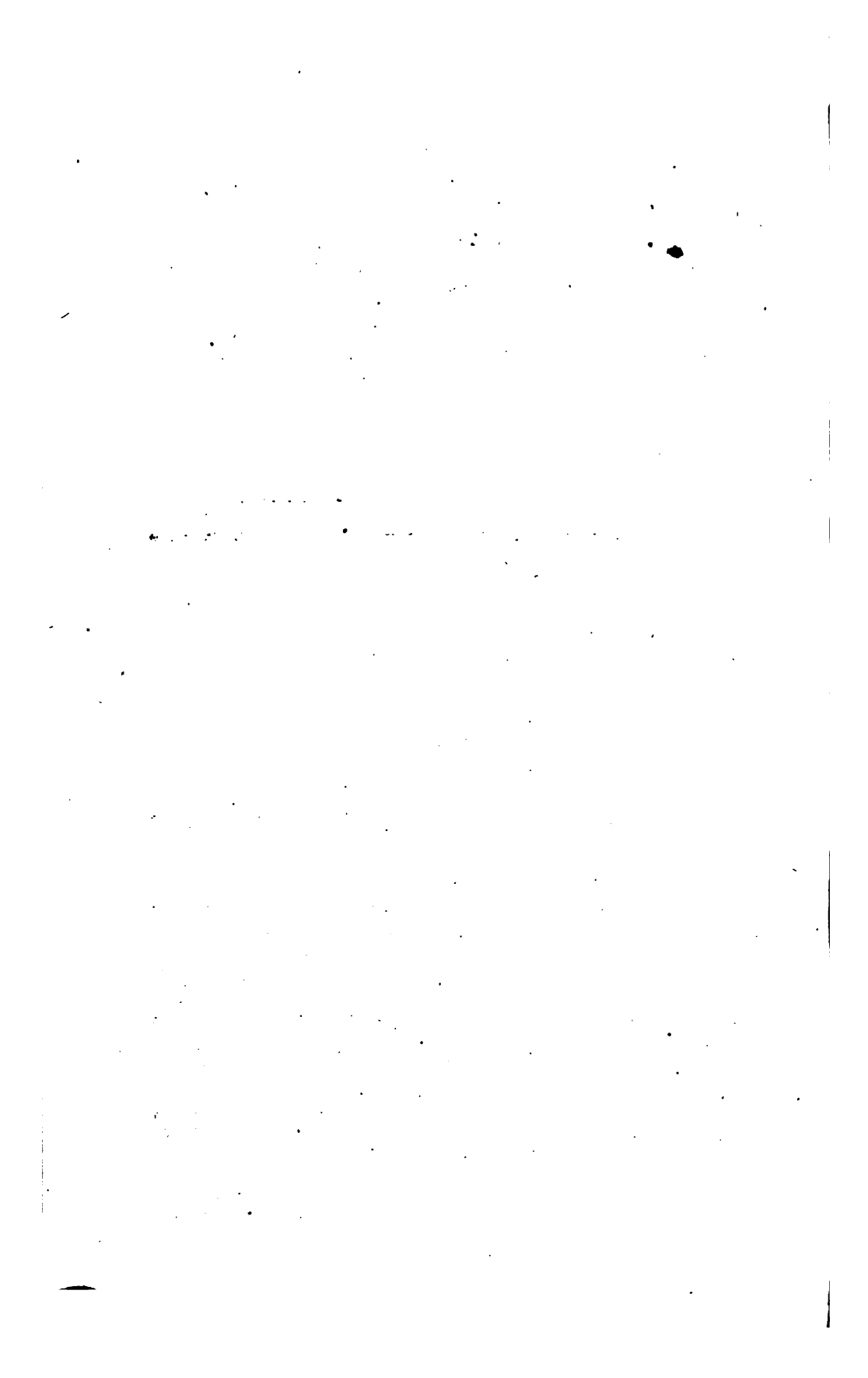
In Switzerland, however, he was protected and patronized, by the Count de Luc and Prince Eugene. He was afterwards introduced to the court of Vienna, where he resided about three years; and might have returned to his native country, if he would have condescended to solicit a pardon, but he disdained the humiliating terms.

In 1721, he came to London, where he printed a Collection of his Poems, in two volumes, 4to. The profits of this work annexed to his reputation a decent independence. But he lost all his fortune, by placing it with the Imperial Company at Ostend, who became bankrupts. This illustrious, but unhappy writer, had then recourse to the patronage of the Duke of Arenberg, who resided at Brussels. But, little formed for dependence, he soon quarrelled with that nobleman; as, indeed, he had done with all his patrons. Like his celebrated namesake, Jean Jacques Rousseau, he was the slave of excessive sensibility.

He closed his miserable existence in March 1741; solemnly protesting, in his last hours, that he was not the author of those satires which occasioned his banishment and his subsequent misfortunes. It is certain that he was a christian, penetrated with a due sense of religion; and therefore it seems probable, that he fell a victim to the too successful machinations of some secret enemy.

As a poet, his odes are the noblest lyric compositions the French possess; his psalms are praised for their harmony, and his epigrams for their neatness. In all his works, he displayed a vigorous and copious imagination. Piron has thus described him, in his epitaph—

*Il fut trente ans digne d'envie,
Et trente ans digne de pitié.*





Published by Stevenson & Co. May 1870.

LOCKE.

JOHN LOCKE, one of our greatest philosophers, was born at Wrington, near Bristol, in 1632. At the breaking out of the civil war, his father was a captain in the Parliament's service. The son, however, received his education at Westminster, and afterwards became a student at Oxford. He first proposed to devote himself to the medical profession, but his feeble constitution deterred him from the consequent fatigue.

An accidental introduction to the Earl of Shaftesbury, in 1671, gave him a valuable patron. They became mutually attached to each other; and Locke resided with his lordship in the character of his secretary. He now sketched the plan of his *Essay on Human Understanding*; and, in 1674, being inclinable to a consumption, he passed a considerable time at Montpellier, not unattentive to the progress of his great work.

In 1679, he returned to England, at the desire of his patron; but, in less than half a year, followed the earl into Holland, who fled from England, to avoid a prosecution for high-treason. Locke himself was strongly suspected, by government; and our philosopher lost his student's place at Oxford, in consequence of an order from Charles II. Administration demanding him from the States of Holland, he withdrew into concealment; and passed the year in writing several books, and perfecting his *Essay*; which, after a close labour of nine years, was published at London, in 1690.

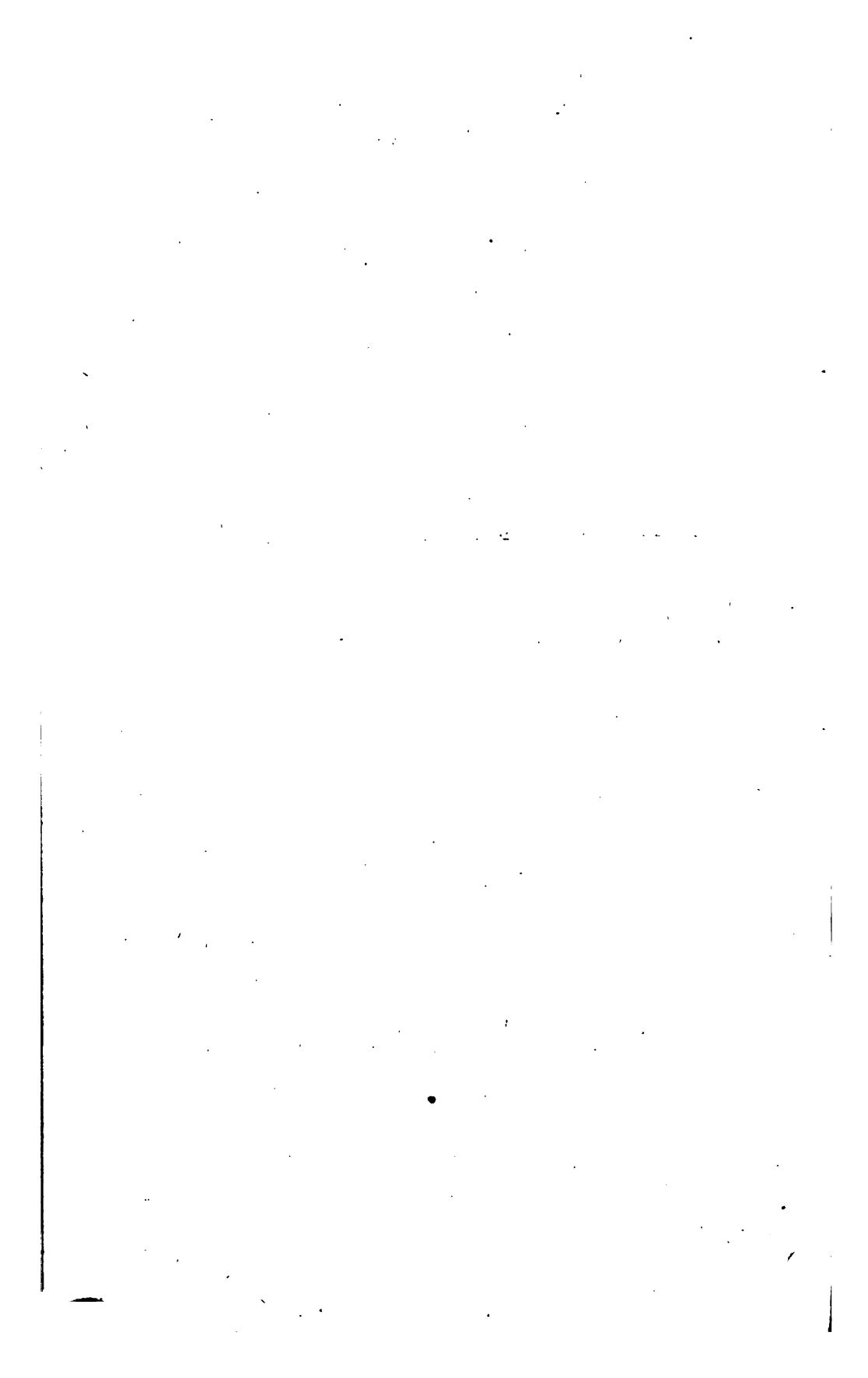
In 1689, he came over with the fleet which convoyed the Princess of Orange; and might now have obtained a very considerable post. For the only reward of his past sufferings, he accepted that of Commissioner of Appeals, worth 200*l.* per annum. It was left to his choice, to go abroad in a publick character; but he preferred withdrawing into a delightful retreat, at Oates, the seat of Sir Francis Masham. He found a congenial mind in Lady Masham, who regarded him with the affection of a votarist. Several of his works were produced in this retirement.

In 1695, he was made Commissioner of Trade and Plantation; which, in 1700, his infirm state of health compelled him to resign.

In 1697, he drew up the excellent Report of the Board of Trade, to the Lords Justices, respecting the Relief and Employment of the Poor. A tract which well merits the attention of our present legislature; the evils complained of still existing, chiefly for want of adopting the proposed remedies.

In 1704, he died of the asthma, his constitutional disorder.

Locke, as a metaphysician, analyzed the human mind, and traced its operations with a marvellous sagacity; and, as a politician, he enforced the principle of toleration, and the love of liberty.





Published by Harrison & Co. May 1 1790.

WILLIAM HOGARTH.

THIS truly original genius was born at London, in 1697. After receiving a tolerable education, he was apprenticed to an engraver of arms and cyphers on plate, usually called a silver engraver; but the powerful impulse of genius directed his studies to painting.

Much of his early life was past in obscurity. He chiefly employed his talents, in designing and engraving for the booksellers; who were then much worse patrons of the arts than they have since proved. He also painted family pictures and portraits; in all which performances he evinced more ability, than he acquired reward.

But his originality, in the mean time, was maturing to perfection. He pursued Nature through her infinity; and contemplated her not through the optics of imitation, but with his own sedulous and critical eye. Whenever he beheld a remarkable countenance, or witnessed any striking occurrence, he was accustomed, by the immediate use of his pencil, to preserve it's remembrance.

In 1730, he married the only daughter of Sir James Thornhill. This union was, indeed, a stolen one. But the growing reputation of Hogarth at length effected a reconciliation with his father-in-law; and his *Harlot's Progress*, published in 1731, announced to the publick the rich acquisition of a Comick Painter.

His merit now became conspicuous; and his pencil acquired, at every exertion, additional reputation. His *Marriage A-la-mode*, produced in 1745, gave rise to the celebrated comedy of the *Clandestine Marriage*.

In 1753, he wrote his *Analysis of Beauty*. In this work, he proves, by a variety of examples, that "a curve is the line of beauty, and that "round swelling figures are most pleasing to the eye." An opinion, which has been confirmed by subsequent writers.

The close of his life was embittered by a satirical contention with Churchill, and Mr. Wilkes. Hogarth caricatured Churchill, and Churchill lampooned Hogarth. "Never," says Lord Orford, "did two "angry men, of their abilities, throw mud with less dexterity."

He was now visibly declining in health; and died, October 25, 1764.

This great artist has the glory of forming a school; and the master remains unrivalled by his scholars. He paints to the understanding, and the heart; and his pictures may serve as annals of the manners of the age. He is, in painting, what Fielding is in romance, or Moliere in comedy.

The above portrait is copied from a valuable and very scarce print, engraved by Hogarth himself; who, after taking off a few impressions, effaced his own head from the plate, and inserted that of Churchill. The original, when it can be met with, usually sells for three guineas.



Published by Harrison & Co. May 1, 1790.

VOLTAIRE.

THIS universal genius—a poet and an historian, a philosopher and a wit—was born at Paris, on the 20th of February 1694; and lived to the age of 85, notwithstanding his life had at his birth been despaired of, and he passed this protracted period of human existence in the most constant studies. In his earliest compositions he displayed great facility of genius; and his very promising abilities were cherished by Ninon de L'Enclos, who bequeathed him two thousand livres for the purchase of a library.

In 1718, his first tragedy, that of Oedipus, was represented with the most brilliant success. His satirical talents, however, procured him a residence in the Bastile; where he sketched his celebrated epick poem, the *Henriade*. Scarcely liberated from this literary inquisition, before he was again threatened with it's prosecution; he abandoned his native country, and arrived in London, where he was most favourably received.

In England, his singular prosperity commenced; and to Englishmen he was ever partial. His *Henriade* is dedicated to Queen Caroline; and he even wrote the dedication in our language.

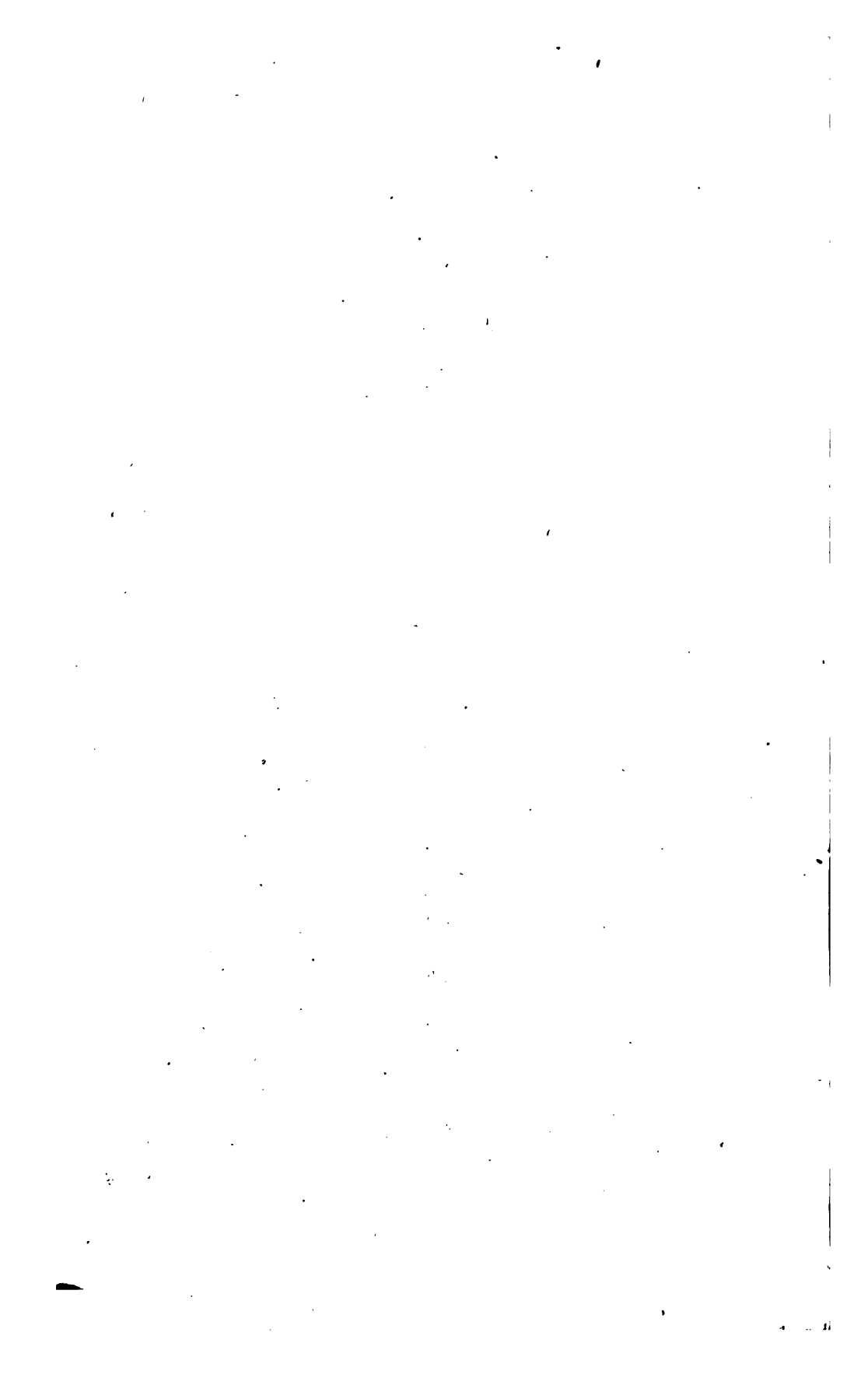
During his residence in this country, he familiarized his taste to our best authors, imitated them in his own writings, and introduced them to the notice of the French nation. Pope and Sir Isaac Newton were alike indebted to him: but he had the hardiness to attack the writings of our immortal Shakspeare, which it is evident he never thoroughly understood.

He returned to France in 1728; and chiefly resided at Paris, till 1746; when he accepted an invitation from the King of Prussia, with a pension of 22,000 livres. The quarrel between Voltaire and the great Frederick is better known than the cause. Disgusted, however, with his splendid servitude, and not permitted to return to Paris, he retired to the village of Ferney, in the neighbourhood of Geneva; which then contained only about fifty peasants, but soon became, under his auspices, the residence of 1200 persons.

Instead of dying peaceably in this retirement, like a true philosopher, his excessive vanity intrigued for his return to Paris; where he fell a victim to that agitation of mind which a public coronation of him occasioned.

The character of Voltaire includes the most striking contrast. He was humane, and malevolent; a philosopher, and an enthusiast; adulative, and satirical; avaricious, and liberal. He united the modesty of a sage, with the vanity of a man of the world. He was, at once, an Aristippus, and a Diogenes.

As an historian, he is but an agreeable romancer; as a philosopher, he is impious. It is, alone, as a wit, and a splendid poet, that he stands unrivalled.





Published by Harrison & Co. May 1794.

ROUSSEAU.

JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU, born at Geneva, June 28, 1712, was the son of a philosophical watch-maker.

Early in life, he went into Italy, where he embraced the religion of the country. He taught musick at Chamberi; formed a familiar acquaintance with Madame de Warens; and, in 1741, proceeded to Paris, where he lived two years in obscurity and indigence.

At length, he became secretary to the French ambassador at Venice; but, quarrelling with his patron, returned to Paris.

In 1750, he first appeared in the republic of letters; when he carried away the prize of the Academy of Dijon.

He returned to Geneva, to present to his native country his *Essay on the Origin of Society*, and then reassumed the Protestant religion.

His first musical attempt, he acknowledges, had been detestable; but he enchanted France, by his *Devin de Village*, produced in 1752. His *Dictionary of Musick*, however, is not worthy the author.

He published a Letter on, or rather—as was usual with this excentrick writer—against French Musick; and another on, or against, Theatrical Exhibitions, raised a celebrated controversy in French literature.

His *New Eloisa*, in 1761, was read with singular avidity, for the brilliancy of it's style, and the seduction of it's sentiments.

Emilius made still more noise; and even excited a spirit of persecution. On this occasion, compelled to fly from France, he first took refuge in his own country. Expelled from thence, he wandered in Switzerland.

Stoned at Neufchatel; rejected at Geneva and Berne; he sought, in 1766, an asylum in this country, under the protection of our historian, Hume, who obtained him the promise of a pension. His constitutional excess of sensibility, however, felt wounded by the mode in which he was to be provided for; and, having grossly abused his protector, he quitted England with disgust. In 1770, he returned to Paris; promised to write nothing more on religion and government; and devoted himself to the transcription of musick, and cultivating the study of botany.

His suspicions increasing with his age, he resolved to quit Paris, and seclude himself from society. In 1778, he accepted the benevolent invitation of the Marquis de Girardin; and retired to that nobleman's beautiful estate of Ermenonville, where he shortly after died, at the age of 66.

His celebrated *Confessions*, which he designed for a posthumous publication, reveal this romantick genius in all his shades of colouring.

A too lively sensibility, united with a most ardent imagination, made at once of this great, but singular character, an author highly celebrated, and a man always unhappy.

POSSIBLE

There is a possibility that the results of the study may be different from those reported in the literature. This is because the study was conducted in a different environment and with a different sample of subjects. The results of the study may be different from those reported in the literature because the study was conducted in a different environment and with a different sample of subjects.

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Published by Harrison & Co. May 1. 1790.

BEN JONSON.

OUR Poet, the fruit of a posthumous birth, was born in the year 1574, and received his education, at Westminster, under the learned Camden. But his mother having married a bricklayer, he was for some time obliged to labour at that humiliating employ. He quitted it, in disgust, and commenced soldier; in which character he went abroad, and distinguished himself by killing one of the enemy in sight of both armies. Of this circumstance he was ever afterwards not a little vain.

On his return home, he resorted to an obscure playhouse. As a performer, however, he was singularly unsuccessful; and chiefly distinguished himself by a duel with a brother actor, whom he killed.

At the age of twenty-four, he attempted to write for the stage; and, much to the honour of Shakspeare, found in him the kindest patron. His first printed production was the comedy of *Every Man in his Humour*; and, for several years, he continued regularly to produce a new play.

In 1600, he began to devote himself to the amusements of the court; and he wrote, for Elizabeth, James I. and Charles I. several masques. But these are to be considered as the lighter efforts of his muse.

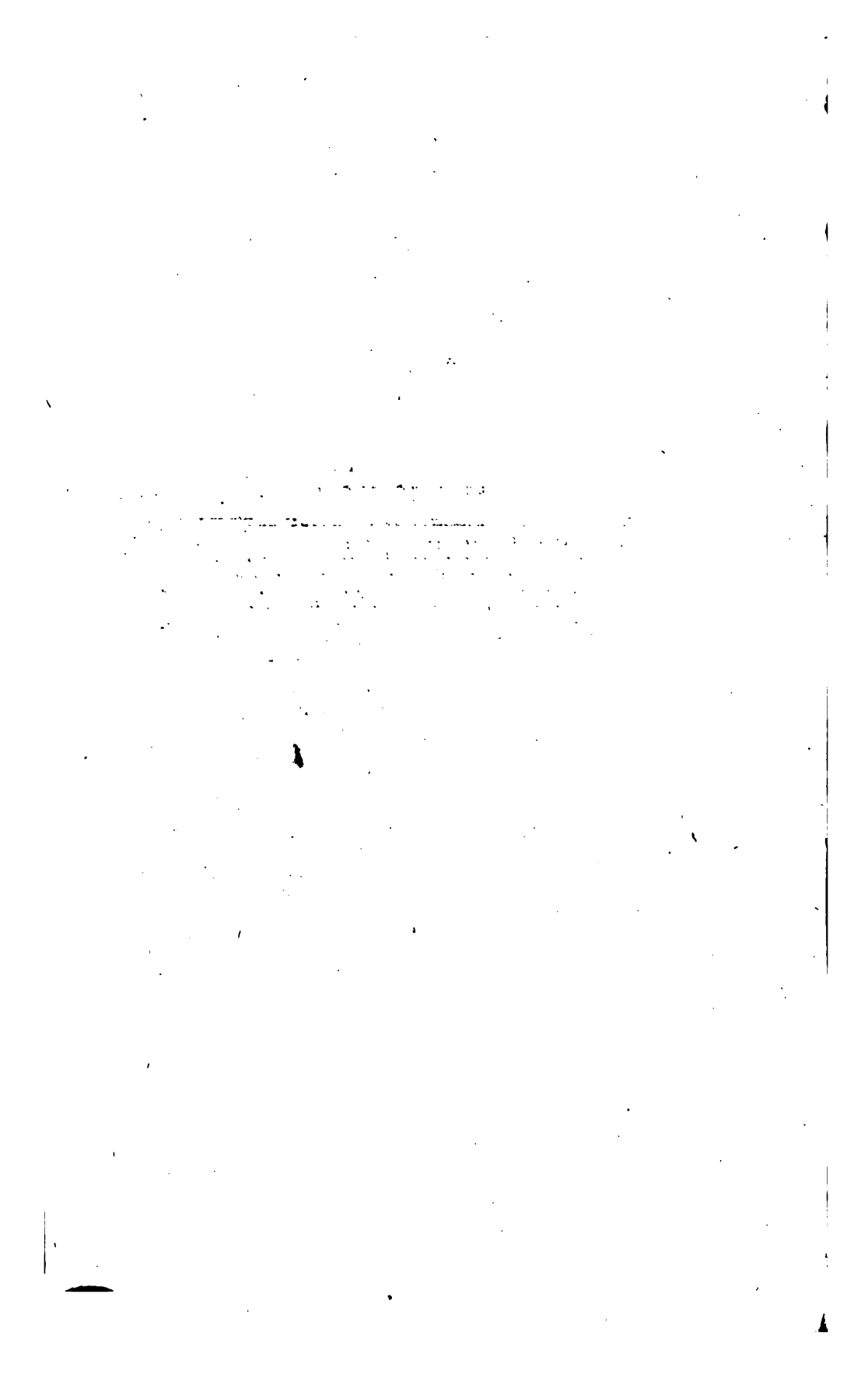
In 1610, was produced his celebrated *Alchymist*. He now grew into eminence; which clearly appears, by the incessant attacks of a herd of witlings. It must be acknowledged, that Jonson was desirous of ruling with a despotick sceptre, and never inclined to use conciliatory measures.

In 1613, he made the tour of France; and, in 1617, King James appointed him Poet Laureat. He now presided in the English Parnassus. The salary was then only 100 marks per annum: but Jonson presented, in 1630, a poetical petition to King Charles, praying that his majesty would make his marks, pounds; and the prayer of the petition was granted. At the close of this year, he travelled into Scotland, to visit Drummond of Hawthornden, who has preserved many curious particulars respecting our Poet.

The latter plays of Jonson failed to please; his health decayed; and he was afflicted by age and poverty. Charles I. occasionally relieved his distresses; yet was he reduced to write, what he called, an *Epistle Mendicant*. A poet is, indeed, a poor financier!

Jonson was never very popular. His learning stifled his genius; and, perhaps, his genius was not exquisite. His verses are generally harsh; and though this poet was considered, by himself and his friends, as the formidable rival of Shakspeare, posterity has not sanctioned this opinion. Yet it must be admitted, that some of his comedies equal any on the stage, where they still deservedly keep their station, as stock pieces.

He died of a palsy, August 6, 1637, in his sixty-third year.





Published by Harrison & Co. New York 1794

RABELAIS.

THIS eccentric genius was born at Chinon, in the province of Touraine, about the year 1483. He was brought up to the church; but could hardly have chosen a less congenial avocation.

At an early age, he displayed a brilliant imagination, and an uncommon share of learning. By his brother monks he was hated and feared, for his wit; and by many regarded as a conjuror, because he understood Greek, which then had but lately began to be studied in Europe.

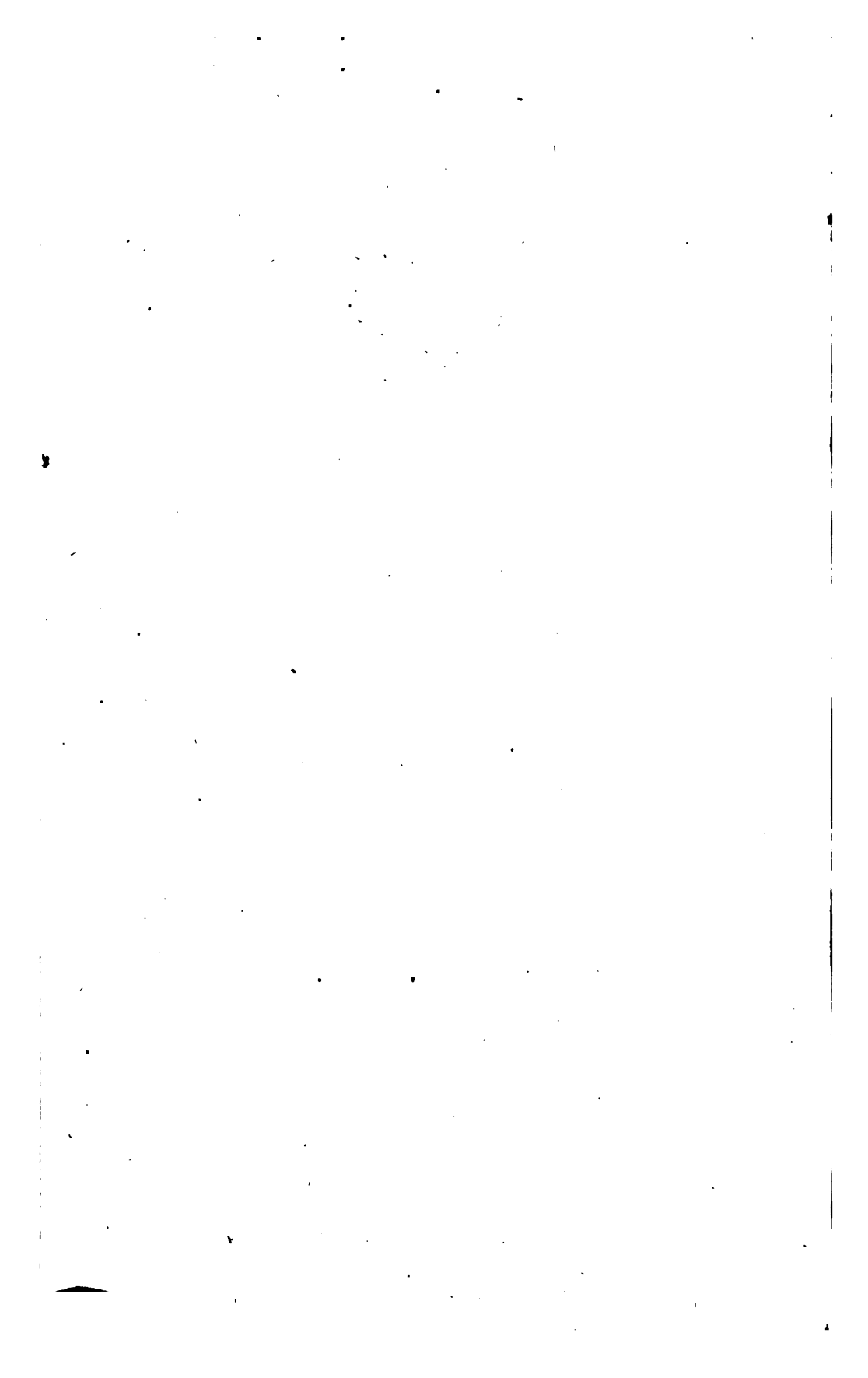
He soon found patrons, however, to assist him in quitting his dull persecutors. Clement VII. granted him permission to change his order; but Rabelais, an enemy to all restraint, soon threw off entirely his religious livery, and studied physick at Montpellier, where he took a doctor's degree. In 1531, his merit raised him to a professorship; and he rendered such important services to the university, that even to the present hour, every candidate who takes a degree at Montpellier, must wear on his admission the cloak of Rabelais, which is preserved with a religious veneration: as if, like the mantle of Elijah, it were expected to impart a portion of the original owner's spirit.

In 1532, he published some works of Hippocrates, and read Lectures to crowded audiences. But, with the restless ardour of genius, he quitted Montpellier, and went to Lyons; where he practised as a physician, till Cardinal Du Bellay's celebrated embassy to Rome. He then accompanied that prelate to the Pope; and so highly delighted his holiness, with his wit and humour, that a bull of absolution was the reward of his drolleries, and he resumed his clerical functions. He then, from a Cordelier, became a Benedictine; from a Benedictine, a Canon; and from a Canon, a Vicar; and the living of Mendon being given to him in 1545, he was, at once, the parson and the physician of his parish.

His most celebrated production, *The History of Gargantua and Pantagruel*, was written about this time. This severe satire on the monks being condemned by the Sorbonne, was the more greedily read; and Rabelais was courted with the same avidity as his imitator, our admired Sterne. The work, though it displays great erudition, and has considerable gaiety, is extravagant, often unintelligible, and tainted with obscenity. Rabelais assures us, that he wrote it at his meals; he might probably have added, not unfrequently in his cups.

Like Sterne, he is famous for having perverted uncommon talents. He was not only a great linguist, but familiar with the severer sciences, and had adorned his memory with the riches of study.

He died at Paris, in 1553; regretted by the many who had been charmed by his brilliant wit, and enlivened by his cheerful conversation.





Published by Harrison & Co. 1790.

DAVID HUME, ESQ.

OUR celebrated historian was born at Edinburgh, in the year 1711. His family was not rich, and he was a younger brother: but, a philosopher from his earliest age, he seemed to have no other desire than to prosecute his studies with ardour.

In 1734, he attempted to settle in the commercial city of Bristol; but soon found that scene totally unsuitable to his dispositions. He then passed three years of rural retirement in France. On his return to London, in 1738, he published his *Treatise on Human Nature*; which, to use his own emphatic expression, "fell dead-born from the press."

He was cheerful, though disappointed. In 1742, the first part of his *Essays* was favourably received. His talents obtained him friends; and he at length conceived himself independent, as he says in his *Own Life*, being now "master of near a thousand pounds."

In 1751, he published his *Political Discourses*, which was his only work that succeeded on the first publication. Three years afterwards, he gave two volumes of his *History of England*. But such was its reception, that he seems, for once, to have lost his philosophy; and, had it not been for the war, proposed "to change his name, and never more to have returned to his native country."

He, however, renewed his intrepidity; and, having completed his *History*, it obtained a very high degree of celebrity.

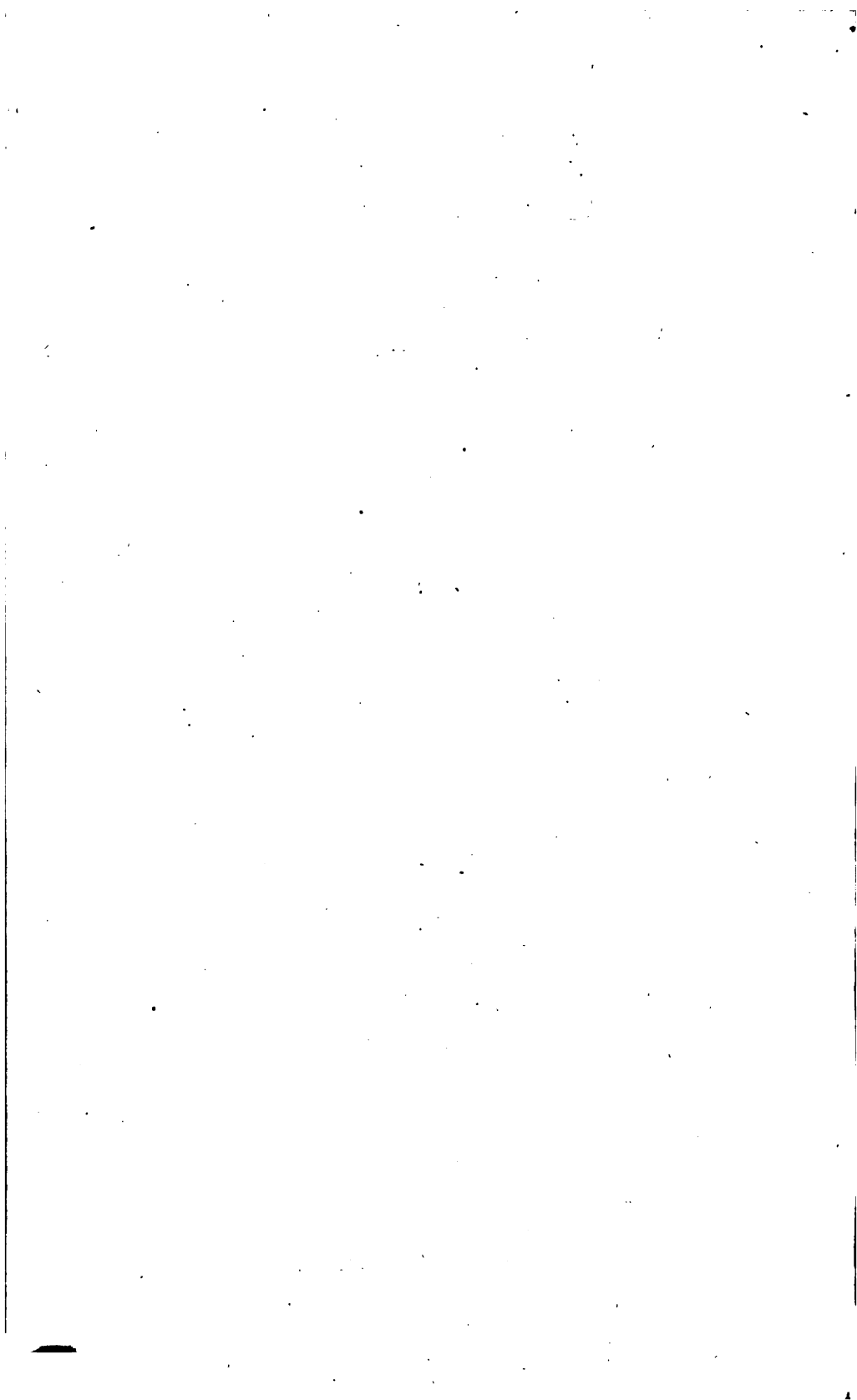
In 1765, he became *chargé d'affaires* at Paris; and his fortune had now been so much augmented, that when he returned to Edinburgh, in 1769, he possessed an income of 1000*l.* per annum.

In his native city, and surrounded by literary friends, he passed his latter years, in the calm enjoyments of philosophy, and the delightful contemplation of a reputation gradually increasing.

In the account of his own life, he asserts, that his friends never had occasion to vindicate any one circumstance of his character and conduct: "not," adds he, "but that the zealots, we may well suppose, would have been glad to invent and propagate any story to my disadvantage, but they could never find any which they thought would wear the face of probability."

He died, at Edinburgh, August 25, 1776.

Hume, in his *Metaphysical Essays*, has veiled, by a polished diction, the most pernicious sentiments. He is accused by many of an unreasonable scepticism. His *History of England* is better known than his philosophical writings. It displays every charm of elaborate composition, and an acuteness which captivates the reader; but it is not entitled to equal praise as a faithful and an impartial narrative.





Published by Harrison & P. June 1. 1794.

EDMUND SPENSER.

THIS amiable and enchanting poet was born in London; and took a bachelor's degree at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, in 1572, and a master's in 1576. So little is known of this exquisite poet, that even the time of his birth is uncertain.

He appears to have had little fortune or interest at his first entrance into life. He stood for a fellowship in his college, and was unsuccessful. This disappointment, joined to his narrow circumstances, induced him to retire into the north; where he became enamoured of his Rosalind, whose cruelty he has lamented in such tender poetical complaints. It was, probably, in this retirement, that he composed his *Shepherd's Calendar*.

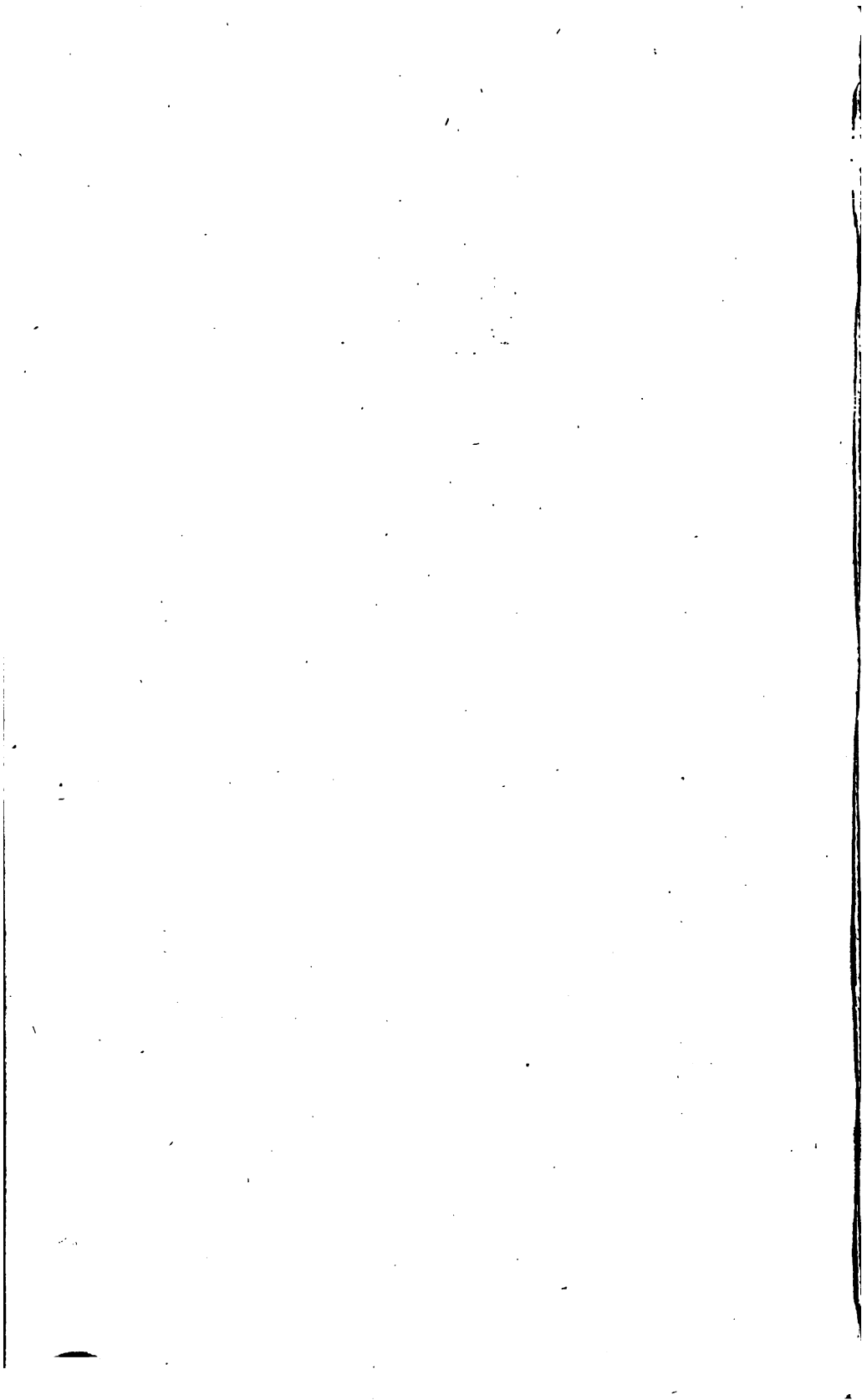
This poem was dedicated to the celebrated Sir Philip Sidney; who, himself a poet, soon discovered, and warmly cherished, the poetical talents of our author. To have obtained such a patron was no doubt a fortunate circumstance for Spenser; but, on Sir Philip's death, he lost his best friend and his best hopes. Burleigh, a consummate statesman, considered poetry only as "a song;" and, it is supposed, even intercepted Queen Elizabeth's bounty to our unhappy bard. Spenser has, indeed, animadverted with singular spirit, as well as feeling, on the miserable state of a court dependent.

Our poet, however, lived esteemed by the court in general, and admired by the most eminent men of his day. When Lord Grey of Wilton was appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland, Spenser went with him in the office of secretary, which he appears to have filled with great ability. For his services to the crown, he obtained a grant from the queen of three thousand acres of land in Ireland. It was in this retirement, that he finished his great work of the *Fairy Queen*. Here, too, he again became a lover; but with better success than in his former amours, for it ended in a marriage.

Sir Walter Rawleigh visited him, in his return from the Portugal expedition of 1589.

But the happy days of our poet now terminated. In the Irish rebellion, he was plundered and deprived of his estate; and appears to have spent the latter part of his life in grief and poverty. Mr. Malone, indeed, has lately attempted to prove, that he enjoyed a pension, as Poet Laureat, to the time of his death, in 1599.

The *Fairy Queen* of our author is a truly poetical work. His fancy is exuberant, and his verse delightfully harmonious. His partiality for obsolete words, and adoption of the Italian stanza, have more than any other cause contributed to injure his merited popularity.





Published by Harrison & Co. June 1. 1790.

LAURENCE STERNE.

THIS excentrick genius, the son of a lieutenant in the army, was born on the 24th of November 1713, at Clomwell, in Ireland. In 1731, he lost his father; but found a parent in his uncle, Dr. Sterne, prebendary of York, who sent him to the university of Cambridge. It was through the interest of this uncle, that he obtained the living of Sutton, in Yorkshire, and also became a prebendary of York. With his patron, however, he at length quarrelled, because he wanted him to be a party writer.

He had married, in 1741; and, having obtained the living of Stillington, by means of his wife, now passed his time in performing the duties of both parishes, and amusing himself with books, painting, fiddling, and shooting!

We know not of any of his literary efforts, till 1759; when he visited London, purposely to publish the two first volumes of *Tristram Shandy*, which immediately became popular. The succeeding ones were not less favourably received; and he was universally recognized as a genuine disciple of Rabelais: equally whimsical, equally facetious; and, it is to be regretted, equally incomprehensible, and equally indelicate.

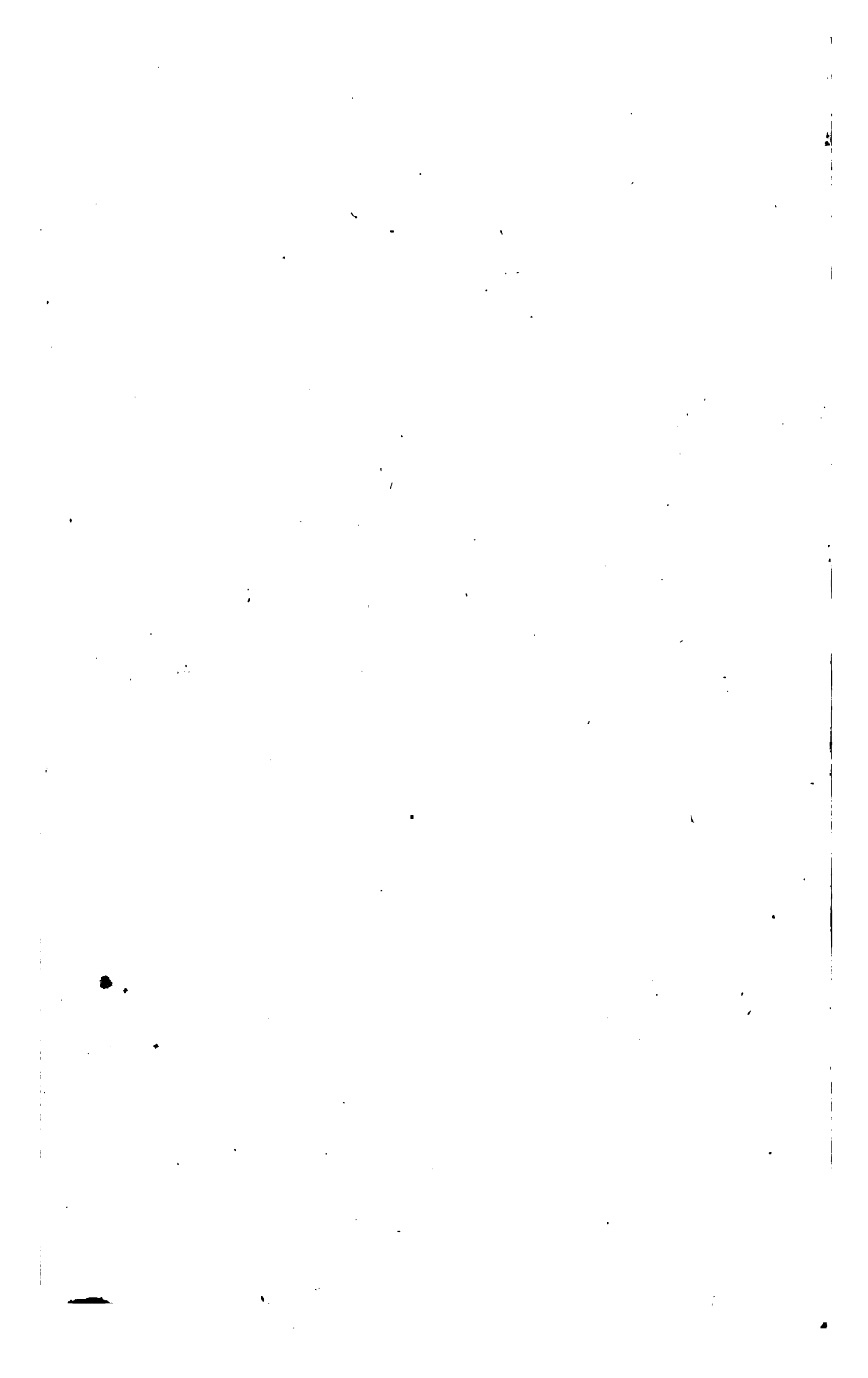
In 1762, the victim of a pulmonary complaint, too frequently the attendant of excessive vivacity in a delicate constitution, he travelled through France; and received, from the most distinguished characters, every mark of admiration and respect. At Toulouse he proposed residing, with his family, for the recovery of his health. He rambled, however, to Montpellier; from thence to Paris; and, in 1764, returned to England.

In 1765, he sought the balsamick air of Italy, to invigorate his debilitated frame. On his return, he gave the world the fruits of his peregrinations, in what he has whimsically denominated, *Yorick's Sentimental Journey through France and Italy*. His Sermons, though excellent as well as elegant moral discourses, partake of the characteristic oddity of this singular genius, and were published under his assumed name of Yorick.

But while his literary reputation daily increased, his health was declining with a rapid consumption on the lungs, and he died in 1768.

The *Letters from Yorick to Eliza* were published after his decease, by his daughter, Mrs. Medalle.

The writings of Sterne are replete with the warmest sentiments of philanthropy; and their originality is of the most entertaining kind. But, it must be confessed, that they are productive of pernicious effects; and are "sullied," to use the expression of Mr. Knox, "by many faults, and many follies."





Published by Harrison & Co. June 1. 1790.

JOSEPH ADDISON, ESQ.

IF English verse is indebted to Pope for it's first perfection, English prose is under no less obligation to Addison. He was born, May 1672, at Milston, in Wiltshire; where his father, a very learned man, was rector.

He early obtained a masterly knowledge of classical literature, and distinguished himself by several fine compositions in Latin verse. But he was twenty-two years of age before he published any English performance; several poetical pieces then acquired him much reputation.

Having obtained the patronage of Sir John Somers, and a pension of 300*l.* per annum, he made the tour of Italy; and, inspired by the classic genius of the land, wrote his celebrated Epistle to Lord Halifax.

In 1703, he returned home, poor and dejected. His future prospects were not now favourable; for his friends were out of power, and his pension had ceased on the death of King William. Solicited to celebrate in verse the splendid victories of Marlborough, he produced his Campaign; and was immediately created a commissioner of appeals.

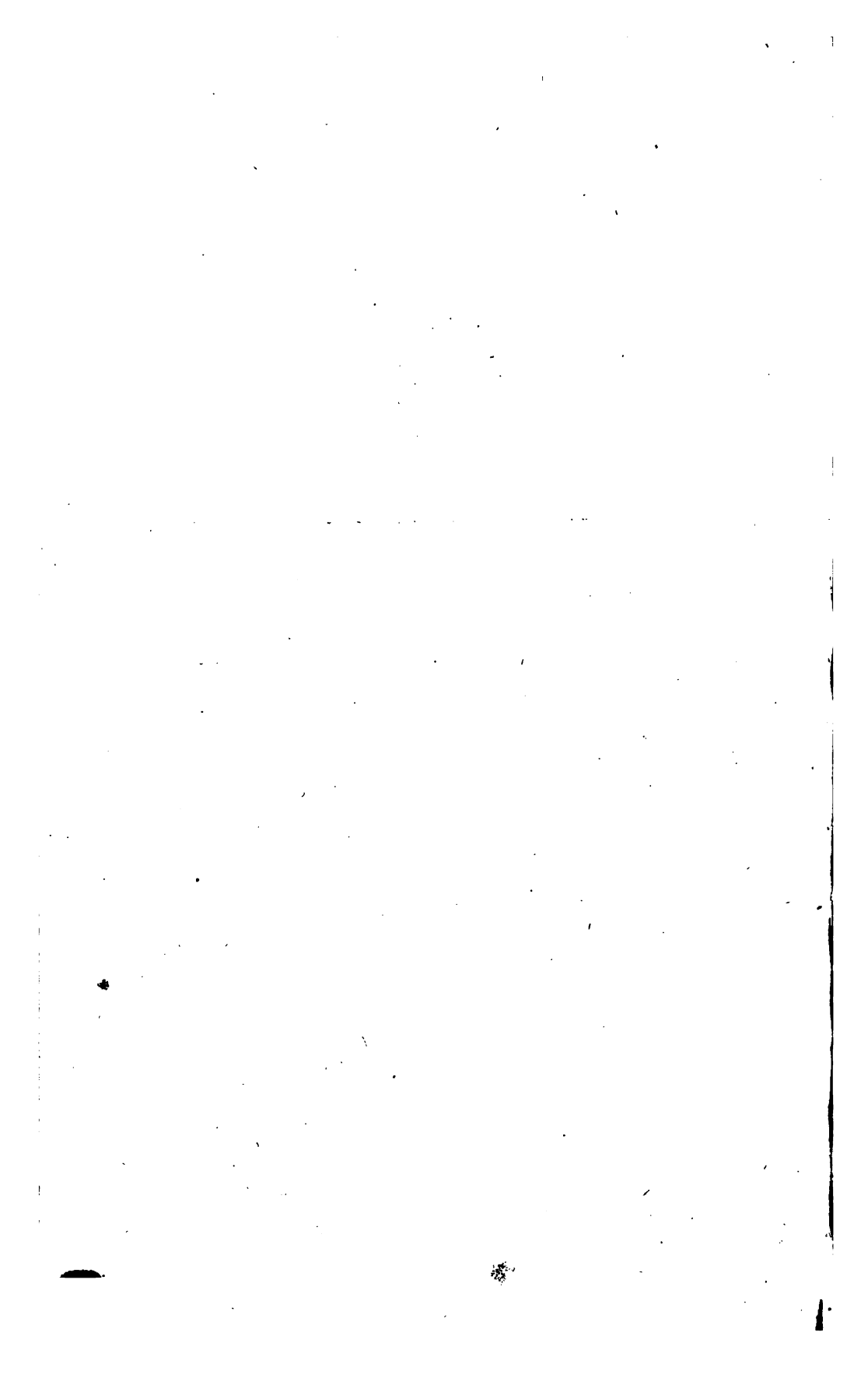
In 1709, he became secretary to the Marquis of Wharton, then lord lieutenant of Ireland; and, during his residence in that kingdom, assisted his friend Steele, the author of the Tatler, with several pieces distinguished for their superior merit. The town was enchanted by these concise and elegant essays; which were alike admitted to the tables of coffee-houses, and the toilettes of the fair. The Spectator, which soon followed, was received with an ardour honourable to the national taste. This work was succeeded by the Guardian, and other periodical essays; in which the politicks as well as the genius of Addison prompted him to engage. They were all equally characterized by a felicity of composition, which united to exquisite humour the graces of fine writing.

In 1713, appeared his famous tragedy of Cato, which was long gazed on as a dramatick miracle. It is not one of it's inferior applauses, that it has been translated into various languages, by the most eminent writers.

In 1716, he married the Countess of Warwick; but the union was more splendid than happy.

In 1717, he was appointed one of the secretaries of state to George I. But the duties of this situation being ungenial to his accustomed habits: he solicited his dismission; and shortly afterwards, June 1719, an asthmatick complaint terminated his life.

Addison, as a poet, does not now attract notice. As a writer of familiar essays, which combine a knowledge of mankind with a humour truly original; a critical power, which if not profound is pleasing; and a facility of imagination, which is the most evident mark of genius; our author will be regarded as inimitable.





Published by Harrison & Co. June 1. 1794.

DR. TOBIAS SMOLLET.

THIS celebrated author was born near Cameron, on the banks of the River Leven, Scotland, in 1720. He was intended for the medical profession; and, at the siege of Carthagea, acted as a surgeon. He has described this expedition in his novel of *Roderick Random*.

On his return, he quitted the sea; and appears to have entirely devoted himself to literary pursuits. He wrote several things before he became known as an author. Like most young writers, he cultivated poetry; but never attained to eminence by such effusions.

In 1748, he published his novel of *Roderick Random*, which was attended with uncommon success. It gave him celebrity, and ensured success for his future productions. In 1751, appeared *Peregrine Pickle*; which, if not equal to the other, is a work of great ingenuity and entertainment.

In 1752, he attempted to resume the practice of physick; and, during his residence at Bath, published a treatise on the waters. But his professional efforts not being encouraged, he returned to Chelsea, relying on his pen for the means of subsistence. He was the first manager of the *Critical Review*, which commenced in 1755; and continued to write for that literary journal till 1763, though it involved him in some unpleasant controversies.

In 1757, he began his *History of England*, the success of which was prodigious, little as it is now regarded; and, about this period, he published several novels, and other productions.

He had failed in some early attempts for the stage; but his farce, called the *Reprisals*, or *Tars of Old England*, was brought out with success, and is still occasionally performed.

The genius of Smollet, though his abilities were very general, must be looked for in his novels. As an original delineator of sea characters, we are unable to mention his equal. *Ferdinand Count Fathom* had been published two years after *Roderick Random*, *Sir Launcelot Greaves* was produced in 1762, the *Adventures of an Atom* in 1769, and *Humphry Clinker* in 1771. Of these, the two first are certainly romantic, but extravagant; the third is political; and the last discovers an admirable knowledge of life and manners.

It would be difficult to enumerate all his literary labours. He translated *Gil Blas*, the *Devil on Two Sticks*, *Don Quixote*; and *Telemachus*.

After the secession of his patron, Lord Bute, from administration, he travelled with dejected spirits, and infirm health, through France, to Italy; where he died, in 1771.

His widow, who had retired to Jamaica, was some years since reduced to the humiliating necessity of soliciting publick charity!



Engraved by Harrison del. J. Smith sculp.

FONTENELLE.

BERNARD DE FONTENELLE, one of the most celebrated French authors, was born in 1657, and lived to the prodigious age of ninety-nine years.

This most respectable and venerable writer continued to exercise his great talents to the last.

Lord Orrery says, in a letter from Marston, near Frome, in Somersetshire, October 1742—"Fontenelle, like our neighbouring thorn, "blossoms in the winter of his days." Alluding to the well known tradition respecting the Glastonbury thorn; which is said to have been planted by Joseph of Arimathea, whose staff it originally was, and to regularly put forth it's blossoms on Christmas-day old style.

Fontenelle was upwards of forty years secretary to the Academy of Sciences, at Paris; and filled that enviable and distinguished situation, not only with universal approbation, but applause.

His History of the Academy throws great light on their Memoirs, which are in themselves very obscure.

The eulogies delivered by the learned secretary, on the deceased members of the Academy, were always greatly admired: they had the peculiar merit of at once exciting a respect for the sciences, and for the author who was the immediate subject of his praise.

In his celebrated Dialogues of the Dead, as well as in his poetical productions, the spirit of Voiture is discernible; but more extended, and more philosophical.

His Plurality of Worlds, written with the design of presenting to general view that part of philosophy in a gay and pleasing dress, is a work truly original, extremely singular in it's nature, and executed with wonderful success.

He published, late in life, several comedies; but, though these productions certainly displayed much of the elegance of this great author, they were by no means calculated for the stage.

Voltaire, who pronounces Fontenelle to have been the most universal genius the age of Louis the Fourteenth produced, thus apologizes for the failure of his dramattick compositions—

"We must excuse his comedies, on account of his great age, and his "Cartesian opinions; which were those of his youth, when they were "universally received throughout Europe."

Fontenelle died in 1756.

The above Portrait is copied from Savart's beautiful drawing and print, after the bust of Monsieur Le Moine, deposited in the Academy of Sciences at Paris.



Engraved by Harrison & C. July 1790.

HANDEL.

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL, unquestionably the greatest master of musick the world has ever known, was born at Halle, in Upper Saxony, on the 24th of February 1684. Scarcely could he speak, before he articulated musical sounds; and his father, a physician, then upwards of sixty, having destined him for the law, grieved at the child's propensity to musick, banished from his house all musical instruments. But the immortal spark of genius, which Heaven had kindled in the infant's bosom, was not to be extinguished by the caprice of a mistaken parent. The child contrived to get a little clavichord into a garret; where, applying himself after the family retired to rest, he soon found means to produce both melody and harmony.

Before he was seven, the Duke of Weisenfels, accidentally discovering his genius, prevailed on the father to cherish his inclination. He was accordingly placed with Zackau, organist of Halle cathedral; and, for three years, from the age of nine, composed a new church service every week.

In 1698, he went to Berlin; but, losing his father, he thought he could best support his aged mother, by repairing to Hamburgh, where he soon attracted general notice. Yet this wonderful musician was a stripling of fourteen! At this premature age, he composed *Almeria*, his first opera.

Having quitted Hamburgh, he travelled six years in Italy, where he gave new displays of his wonderful ability, and was pensioned by the Elector of Hanover, afterwards George I.

In 1710, he came to London, where his opera of *Rinaldo* was admired like his preceding miracles, and the necessity of his departure became the subject of general regret.

In 1712, he again visited England: but, seduced by the favour and fortune that overwhelmed him, he forgot to return; and when, on the death of Queen Anne, the Elector was called to the throne, he was afraid to appear at court, till an ingenious stratagem restored him to favour.

Queen Anne's pension of 200*l.* was now doubled by George I. and the nobility having formed an Academy of Musick, under his direction, it flourished ten years; when a quarrel between him and Senesino dissolved the institution, and brought on a contest which ruined his fortune and his health. Restored by the baths of Aix la Chapelle, he determined to chuse sacred subjects for the future exercise of his genius. This resolution produced those noble compositions, his truly divine Oratorios; which were performed at Covent Garden till his death, in April 1759. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, with suitable pomp; where his genius has been since commemorated with little less than divine honours.



Published by Harrison & Co. 1791.

SIR ANTHONY VANDYKE.

THIS illustrious painter was born at Antwerp, in 1599, and received the first lessons of his art from the celebrated Rubens. He exhibited, in his youth, strong indications of future genius. During his residence with Rubens, he painted a great number of portraits; and particularly the face of his master's wife, which was highly esteemed. He afterwards travelled to Italy, and there studied the beautiful colouring of the Venetian school.

On his return to Flanders, he displayed a manner of painting so natural and noble, that he rivalled Titian; and excelled that great man in his portraits.

The historical pieces of Vandyke obtained great celebrity: but his paintings after life proved so lucrative, that he devoted himself to the less sublime department of the art.

For this purpose, he travelled to various foreign courts.

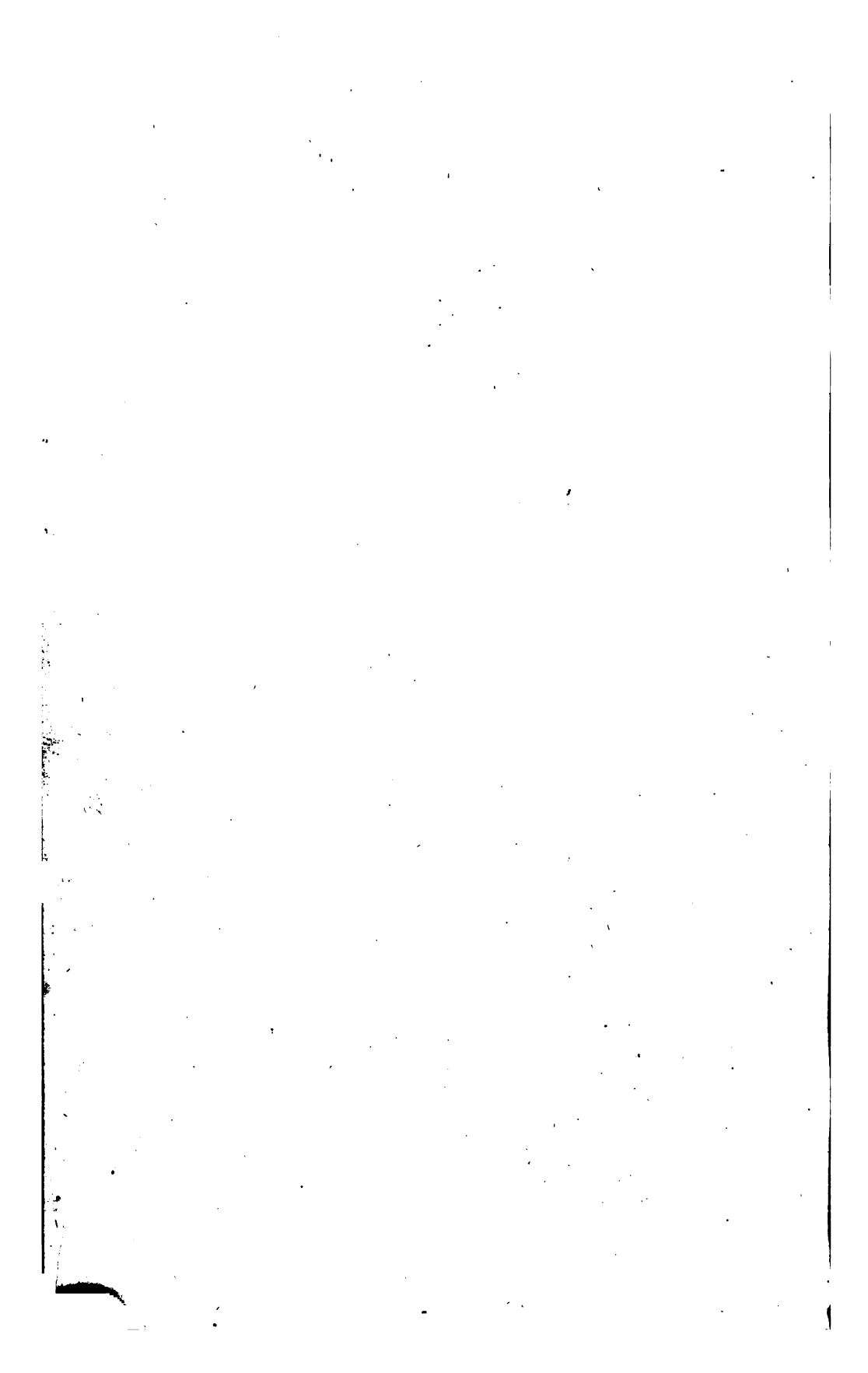
Invited by Cardinal Richelieu to France, after a short stay, he passed over to England. Charles I. was his admirer; he knighted and pensioned him. The nobility and gentry followed the royal example, which spread abroad his portraits in great numbers. Vandyke has shewn his gratitude, by various fine pictures of the unfortunate monarch.

Latterly, his reputation was so universal, and his profits were so considerable, that he frequently ran over his portraits with rapidity, and painted them slightly. He was now secure of pleasing, and profited by the publick ardour. When he was accused of negligence, he replied—"I worked a long time for reputation; I now work for my kitchen."

He was surrounded by all that genius can sigh for. He married one of the beauties of the English court, the daughter of the Earl of Gowry; and lived in the splendid magnificence of a prince, rather than that of a painter.

In the decline of life, he was desirous of immortalizing his name by a grand effort. He went to Paris, in hopes of painting the Louvre; but was disappointed. He returned to England, and proposed to make cartoons for the Banqueting House at Whitehall: the subject was to have been, the Institution of the Garter. For this he asked the king eight thousand pounds. While he was in treaty for a less sum, he died of the gout, at the age of forty-two.

Vandyke was the most eminent scholar of Rubens. Du Fresnoy says, that "he even excelled him in the delicacy of his colouring, and in his cabinet pieces; but his gusto in the designing part was nothing better than that of Rubens."





Published by Harrison & Co. July 1. 1790.

ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON.

THIS learned and pious prelate was born in 1630, at Hallifax, in Yorkshire, where his father was a considerable clothier. He was sent to Cambridge in 1647, and acquired great skill in the learned languages.

His first religious impressions were taken from the puritans; but Chillingworth's Religion of Protestants gave his mind the bias it ever after held. He brought over more non-conformists to the communion of the church of England than any other divine.

When he printed his first sermon, he was still among the dissenters; at least, as an auditor. His first office in the church, after the Restoration, was that of a curacy, at Cheshunt, in 1661. His merit was more known when he became preacher to the Society of Lincoln's Inn. Our worthy divine never seems to have been solicitous of preferment; but his friends were by no means inattentive to his interests.

He became Dean to the cathedral of Canterbury in 1672; and, in 1676, converted the Earl of Shrewsbury from the Romish to the Protestant persuasion. Neither Charles II. nor James II. of course, were friends to Tillotson.

On the accession of King William and Queen Mary, he became a great favourite at court. His patron, the Earl of Shrewsbury, was now secretary of state. The refusal of Archbishop Sancroft to acknowledge the late established government, made his majesty fix on Dean Tillotson for the see of Canterbury: but our divine had no other ambition, than to exchange his deanery for that of St. Paul's; which was readily granted, in 1689.

King William found it necessary to press on him the acceptance of the see of Canterbury; for Tillotson had the greatest reluctance possible to this dignity. Although his life had been blameless, he well knew the archiepiscopal see would expose him to the envenomed attacks of the opposite party. At length, however, he submitted to the king's desire; and was consecrated in April 1691.

He had scarcely been inducted, when the falsest calumnies were spread against him. He bore every thing with exemplary piety and resignation. On a bundle of libellous publications, found after his death, he had put this inscription—"These are libels. I pray God forgive the writers; I do." These works hurt his health more than his reputation. He did not long survive his advancement; and died, with a calm resignation, on the 10th of December 1694, aged fifty-six.

The Sermons of Tillotson were highly admired. He displays good sense, strong reasoning, and a copiousness of diction; yet his style is too diffuse, and often too mean for the refinement of the present day.



Published by Harrison & Co. July 11, 1790.

CORNEILLE.

PETER CORNEILLE, the celebrated French dramatist, was born at Roan, in Normandy, June 6, 1606. He was descended from a good family, and brought up to the bar. But his elevated genius was ill adapted for business; and, though he had not yet given the publick any specimen of his poetical talents, he resolved to quit his professional pursuits.

An affair of gallantry induced him to perpetuate it's singularity, in his first comedy, called *Melite*. At that time the French drama was extremely low; their tragedy was languid, and their comedy still worse. Corneille, unconscious of his superiority, was surprized at the success of his first dramattick essay. He was immediately regarded as the father of the French theatre. He continued his labours with equal success; and though the pieces which he then wrote, were by no means equal to what he afterwards produced, they were very superior to any that the French nation had hitherto known.

In 1637, he gave the world his celebrated *Cid*: we say, the world; for this tragedy has been translated into almost all languages. Such, indeed, was it's celebrity, that Corneille, by this masterpiece of dramattick composition, incurred the envy of all the French wits, and particularly that of Cardinal Richelieu; who, not satisfied with being minister of state, was ambitious of poetical honours. It was by his desire, that the French Academy wrote their *Critique* on this tragedy; which only served to shew that the finest composition is not impregnable to the attacks of criticism.

Corneille was by no means insensible to this criticism; but he wisely considered, that his best answer would be, to pursue the glorious track he had opened for himself. Several admirable performances obtained him the suffrages of the publick. He was, however, at length so disgusted by the cabals of his petty rivals, that he resolved to renounce the theatre, and devote himself to pious compositions. Accordingly, he translated a poem by Thomas à Kempis, called *The Imitation of Jesus Christ*.

In 1647, he was elected a member of the French Academy, and again suffered his muse to tread the stage; but his last tragedies were the children of his age, and possessed not the vigour and beauty of his earlier offspring. He died in 1684, in his 79th year.

Our poet was of a serious disposition; and had the sublime mind of an ancient Roman: he was, therefore, very unskilful in the art of soliciting the favours of the great; and, notwithstanding his superior merit, and his universal fame, died in extreme misery. He has written above thirty plays, which are distinguished by their originality and strength. Corneille had, more than any other French poet, the genius and force of our Shakspeare.



Published by Johnson & Co. July 1794

JAMES THOMSON.

THIS amiable poet, the son of a Scotch minister, was born at Ednam, September 7, 1700. He received his education at Jedburgh, which he notices with fondness in his *Autumn*, and was from thence removed to Edinburgh. He was intended for the church, but indulged his love of the Muses; and, at length, having performed an exercise in verse, the Professor of Divinity thought proper to censure him for the splendour of his diction.

Disgusted with such professors, and resigning all hopes of ecclesiastical dignity, he resolved to be a poet, and to try his fortune in London. His situation, on arriving in the metropolis, is forcibly displayed by Dr. Johnson; who says, that "his first want was of a pair of shoes." Nor did he possess any other property than his *Winter*. For this he obtained a low price from the bookseller; and it was long before that sublime poem could find readers. So discouraging are the first attempts of a juvenile poet!

But his merit became conspicuous, on the completion of his plan; and the performance of his tragedies, if they made no very considerable addition to his fame, at least served to improve his finances.

Invited to make the tour of Europe with the Honourable Charles Talbot, he there contemplated the scenes of ancient freedom. This produced his very copious poem on *Liberty*; of which himself entertained the most favourable hopes: but, notwithstanding several brilliant passages, it seems to have been universally neglected.

After the death of his patron, he enjoyed the protection and bounty of Frederick Prince of Wales; who appears to have been the general patron of men of genius. A very rare instance, in the annals of the English princes!

The last piece which he lived to publish, was his *Castle of Indolence*; a delightful imitation of Spenser, which must rank next to his *Seasons*; but it can never attain to their popularity, because it is more addressed to the lovers of the higher poetry.

He died on the 27th of August 1748.

Thomson lived latterly at Richmond, in a philosophical independence; and, though a poet, left sufficient to pay his debts, besides something to testify his affection to his family. He was one of the most amiable characters literature can boast: and his chief work, the *Seasons*, addressed to all classes of readers, from the force and glow of it's descriptions, the tenderness and humanity of it's sentiments, it's domestic occurrences, and originality of genius, is indisputably the most popular poem in the English language.



Published by Harrison & Co. July 1, 1790.

OTWAY.

THOMAS OTWAY, the son of a clergyman, and one of our chief dramattick poets, was born at Trotting, in Sussex, March 1651. He received his education at Winchester school, and at Christ Church College, Oxford, where he was entered a commoner in 1669. He left the university without obtaining any degree; and from thence went to London, where he applied himself to the stage for support. He both wrote and performed in plays; and resembled Shakspeare in this, that he was a much finer poet than actor.

Having found a patron in the Earl of Plymouth, one of the natural sons of Charles II. he obtained a cornet's commission in a new-raised regiment destined for Flanders. He went thither in 1677: but Anthony Wood tells us, he was ill adapted for a soldier; and it appears that he returned home the next year, in very indigent circumstances.

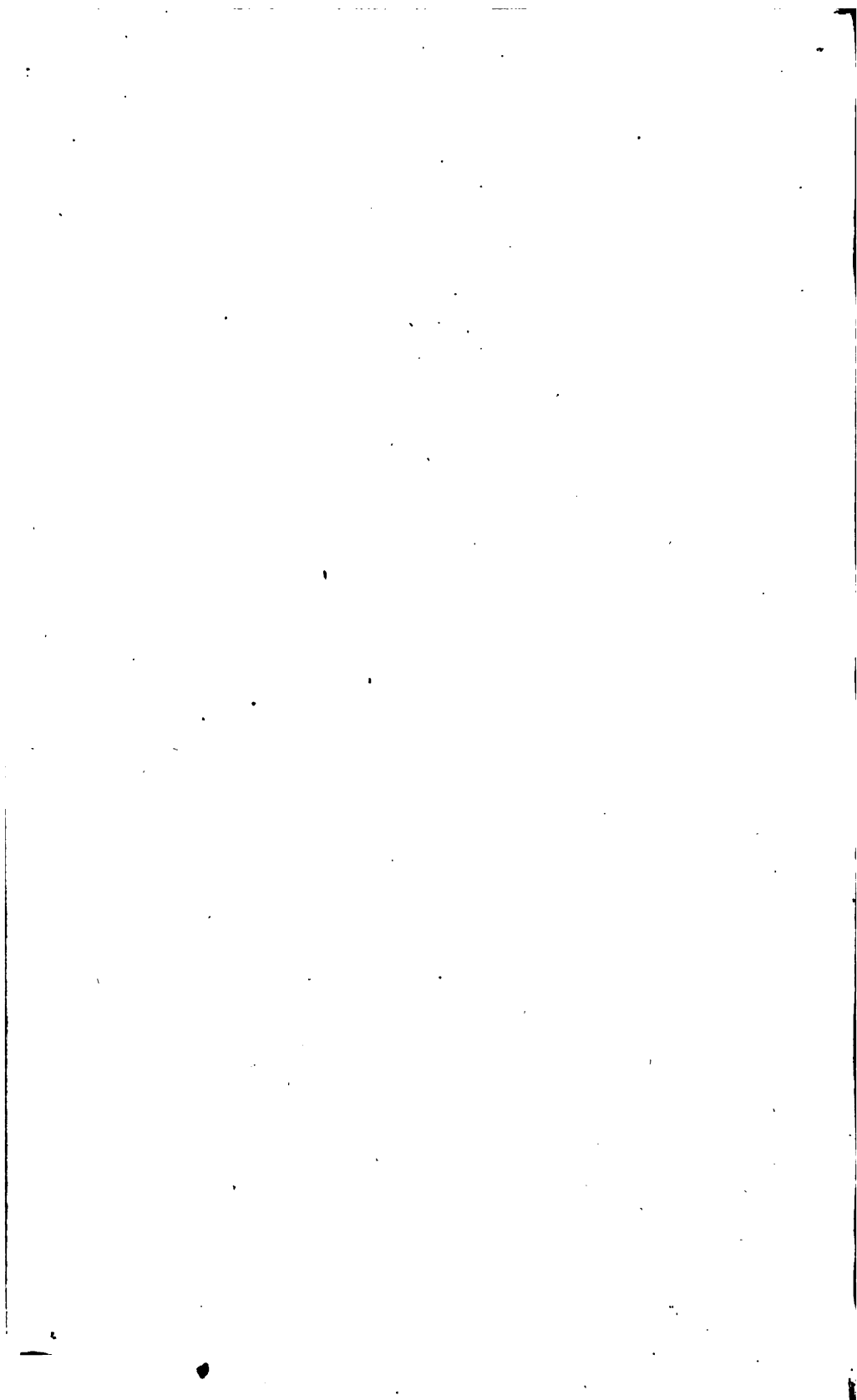
From this time, to that of his death, he wrote a variety of plays and poems. The latter, however, are but little esteemed.

Few particulars have reached us respecting this unfortunate poet. We know little more, than that he lived in great misery; and, indeed, the well-known anecdote relating to his death, but too clearly proves his melancholy situation. "Hunted," says Dr. Johnson, "by the terriers of the law, he retired to a publick house on Tower Hill. He went out, as it is reported, almost naked, in the rage of hunger; and, finding a gentleman in a neighbouring coffee-house, asked him for a shilling. The gentleman gave him a guinea; and Otway, going away, bought a roll, and was choaked with the first mouthful."

This anecdote, though popular, certainly rests on dubious evidence: but "that indigence, and it's concomitants, sorrow and despondency, brought him to the grave," as Dr. Johnson observes, "has never been denied."

He died on the 14th day of April 1685.

Of his character as a poet, it is universally allowed, that no writer—Shakspeare, perhaps, not excepted—more forcibly addresses himself to the passions, and interests the feeling bosom by his lively and tender sentiments. He has written ten dramattick pieces; two only, however, are still in possession of the stage. The Orphan, and Venice Preserved, are perhaps never acted without affecting the audience. Otway has also written several poems and translations; but he had not much cultivated versification. He does not appear to have attached himself to study; and he rather excelled by inimitable strokes of nature, than by the patient touches of art. His learning was inconsiderable; but his genius was great; his misery still greater.





Published by Harrison & Co. Sep. 1. 1794.

CHURCHILL.

CHARLES CHURCHILL, one of the first poetical satyrists of any age or nation, was a son of the Reverend Mr. Charles Churchill, curate and lecturer of St. John's, Westminster. He was educated at Westminster school; and was early noticed for his strong talents.

He married very young; and, as soon as he could obtain orders, got a curacy of thirty pounds a year in Wales. There he took a small house; and, in this tranquil though humble state, was beloved by his parishioners: but, endeavouring to better his fortune, he unadvisedly embarked in the cyder-trade, which involved him in difficulties, and occasioned his return to London. His father soon afterwards dying, he succeeded to the curacy and lectureship of St. John's, which produced about 100*l.* a year. This was barely sufficient for subsistence; and, his friend Lloyd having acquired considerable credit, with some profit, by publishing the *Astor*, Churchill was induced to try his hand on a similar subject, and accordingly produced the *Rosciad*. This is the first of our poet's works, and there are many who think it his best; yet we can by no means subscribe to that opinion. It excited, however, the publick curiosity, and laid the foundation of his future fame.

His next poem was, an *Apology to the Critical Reviewers*; which had likewise the good fortune to be read with avidity: but good fortune, like good liquor, is too apt to produce intoxication. It had this effect on Churchill. He now threw off both his wife and his gown; launched into the vortex of dissipation; and became what is denominated a man of the town. His next poem was appropriate: he called it *NIGHT*; and contends, honestly enough, that whatever our follies may be, we should never attempt to conceal them. This was succeeded, by the *Ghost*, in which he aims his virulent quill at Dr. Johnson; and the *Prophecy of Famine*, in which, probably encouraged by the popularity of his friend Wilkes's *North Briton*, he even ventures to attack a whole nation. This last work had prodigious success. His *Ghost*, *Independence*, and *Times*, were also greedily purchased; though they appear to have been written without effort, and were aimed, as it has been ingeniously remarked, rather at the pockets, than the hearts, of his readers. His *Epistle to Hogarth* added nothing to his reputation.

He died November 5, 1764, at Boulogne, in France, of a military fever, with which he was seized while on a visit to Mr. Wilkes, then in exile.

It is to be regretted, that a genius of so much vigour should have been devoted to personal satire. Had his subjects been less temporary, and his diction more polished, he might have rivalled the choicest models of antiquity.



Published by Harrison & Co. Sep. 1790.

THE EARL OF CHATHAM.

THIS exalted statesman, William the second son of Robert Pitt, Esq. of Boconnock, in Cornwall, by a sister of the Earl of Grandison, was born November 5, 1708. At the age of twenty-one, he became a cornet of horse; but, having early obtained a seat in parliament, displayed such powers of oratory, and such knowledge of the policy, jurisprudence, and commercial interests of his country, as at once excited astonishment, respect, and veneration. In 1745, the Dutchess-dowager of Marlborough rewarded his patriotism with a legacy of 10,000*l.* and, in May 1746, he became treasurer and paymaster-general of the army; but resigned in 1755. The year following, he was made secretary of state.

He no sooner took the lead, than every nerve was braced, and the British arm extended in compleat vigour. Louisburg fell, under Boscawen and Amherst; Saunders, and the immortal Wolfe, triumphed at Quebec; Senegal and Goree were annexed to the British crown; all the French East India possessions reduced; their armies every where defeated; Belleisle taken; and the navy of England riding triumphant on the seas, the fleets of France were compelled to lie inactive: their coasts were ravaged; their commerce annihilated; and their national resources exhausted.

The 30th of July 1766, he was created a peer; but the gout now grew so violent, that he was often carried to his seat in parliament covered with flannels; and still struggled for the welfare of his country, though obliged to be supported by crutches, while he delivered the firm sentiments of his vigorous mind. On the Duke of Richmond's moving to withdraw our troops from America, April 8, 1778; the Earl, with enthusiastick energy, opposed the motion. He declared "he was exceeding ill; but, as long as he could crawl down to that house, and had strength to raise himself on his crutches, or to lift his hand, he would vote against giving up the dependency of America on the sovereignty of Great Britain; and if no other lord was of opinion with him, he would singly protest against the measure." These may be considered as the dying words of this immortal patriot, who well knew what was for the true interests of both countries.

The duke having replied, his lordship attempted again to get on his legs: but he was immediately seized with convulsions; and, being carried to his house, languished till the 11th of May, and then died.

This firm and decided statesman affords the rare instance of a British premier equally the friend of, and equally beloved by, the three component parts of the constitution; yet idolized by the people, and dreaded only by his country's foes. Never was there a minister better suited to the genius of Englishmen: prompt and daring in the enterprize; bold and rapid in the execution. With such a man at the helm, Britons are invincible!



Engraved by Harrison & Co. 1794.

DEAN SWIFT.

DR. JONATHAN SWIFT, Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin, stands high in the list of eminent English writers. The time in which he lived may be considered as the literary age of Great Britain. He was born in 1667, and died in 1745.

This distinguished, but eccentric character, was a political, satirical, and miscellaneous author, of the highest reputation; but we dare not pronounce him a great poet.

To detail his political connections, his literary correspondences, his travels from England to Ireland, and from Ireland to England, with the peculiar habits of his life, and his domestick arrangements, would require a volume of very considerable bulk.

His moral and political romance, the well-known *Gulliver's Travels*, is one of the choicest productions in any language. It has, with a common reader, all the fascinations of a most delectable romance; and, to the piercing eye of the philosopher and politician, it presents, at the same time, a most incomparable picture of humiliated nature. The *Tale of the Tub*, has a similar effect respecting matters of religion; where his Peter, Jack, and Martin, are nothing less than the Papists, Protestants, and Presbyterians.

The rest of his numerous works are, chiefly, a *History of the Four last Years of Queen Anne*; *Letters*; *Poems*; *Sermons*; *Essays*; and *Political Tracts*.

To characterise writings so multifarious, under one general description, is impossible. It may be said, however, that his chief excellence lay in wit, humour, and satire. But it is to be lamented, that, in his pursuits after Nature, he was fond of dragging the unhappy female from her most retired privacies, and exposing her in such unseemly situations, as must excite disgust, instead of the admiration which she has ever been accustomed to receive, and which, with all her infirmities, she is still entitled to expect. With regard to his poetry, though it is never sublime, the diction is always smooth and respectable. The style of his prose deserves to be particularly mentioned; as easy, unaffected, and correct. The student who would form a good style, has been told to "give his days and his nights to Addison;" we would advise him, at least, to spare a few hours for Swift.

This great author, as if he had some presentiment of the calamity that was to befall him, devoted a considerable sum to found an hospital for idiots. What a melancholy consideration it is, that his own large portion of intellect was exhausted for some years before the vital spark became completely extinguished!



Published by Harrison & Co. Sep. 1. 1794.

BEAUMONT.

FRANCIS BEAUMONT, the dramattick coadjutor of Fletcher, was descended from an ancient family, at Grace Dieu, in Leicestershire, where our poet was born about the year 1586. His grandfather, John Beaumont, was master of the Rolls; and his father, Francis Beaumont, one of the judges of the Common Pleas. Having finished his education at Cambridge, young Beaumont became a student of the Inner Temple; but the warmth of his affection for the Muses, soon rendered them rivals, too powerful for the law.

It is not improbable, that Fletcher, who was about ten years older than Beaumont, and apprized of his brilliant talents, might propose the scheme of their joint application to the drama. Certain it is, that Beaumont, who had alone written several little poems and a masque, was early esteemed so excellent a judge of dramattick writings, that even the proud Ben Jonson submitted to him the correction of his works.

The plays of Beaumont and Fletcher, as they are always called, amount to fifty-three in number; but our poet could only have been concerned, at most, in the greater part of them.

Notwithstanding the maturity of his judgment, and his great critical powers, Beaumont made his exit from the stage of life a very young performer; for he died in March 1615, not having attained to thirty years, and lies buried in the entrance of St. Benedict's chapel, Westminster Abbey. There is no epitaph inscribed on his tomb; but two have been composed to his memory. One of these is by his eldest brother, Sir John Beaumont; the other by Bishop Corbet. They are preserved in their respective works; but have little to recommend them, beyond the kindness of the intention.

Ben Jonson addresses our young poet with a fraternal affection.

"How I do love thee, Beaumont, and thy Muse,
 "That unto me do'st such religious use!
 "How do I fear myself, that am not worth
 "The least indulgent thought thy pen drops forth?
 "At once, thou mak'st me happy, and unmak'st;
 "And giving largely to me, more than tak'st.
 "What fate is mine, that so itself bereaves?
 "What art is thine, that so thy friend deceives?
 "When even there, where most thou praisest me,
 "For writing better I must envy thee!"

A daughter of Beaumont's was living in the year 1700, who had in her possession several poems written by her father; but they were unfortunately lost at sea, in her passage from Ireland.



Engraved by Harrison & P. Sep. 1790.

FLETCHER.

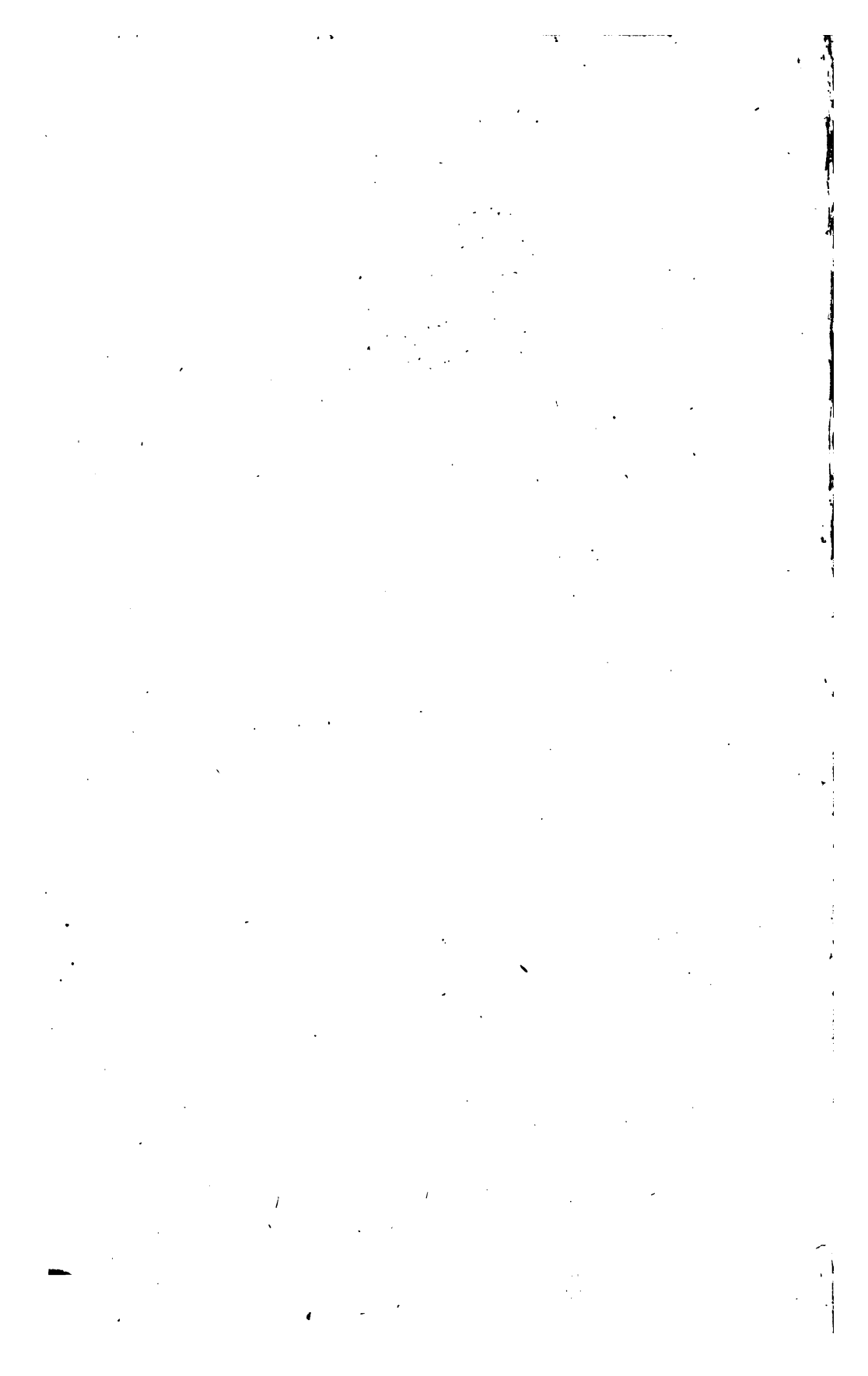
JOHN FLETCHER was a descendant of friends as respectable in the church, as those of his poetical colleague, Beaumont, in the law. His father was Dr. Richard Fletcher, Bishop of London; and our poet, who was born in Northamptonshire, in 1576, received his education, as well as his friend Beaumont, at the university of Cambridge, to which his father was a considerable benefactor. He made great proficiency in his studies, and was esteemed a good scholar. Nor was he less remarkable for extraordinary wit and vivacity, which soon rendered him a devotee to the Muses. From this close attachment, and the connection which he luckily formed with a genius fully equal to his own, he was soon raised to one of the most elevated situations in the temple of dramattick fame.

Such is the similarity of genius, in Beaumont and Fletcher, that we are unable to perceive, at the present day, on perusing their plays, that two writers were concerned in producing them. It seems the general opinion, however, that the judgment of Beaumont was employed to correct and prune the rich luxuriance of Fletcher's exuberant imagination. In short, that Fletcher's peculiar talent was wit; and Beaumont's, though much the younger man, judgment.

But whatever might be the mode in which they co-operated, nothing is more certain, than that their productions were the favourites of the age in which they lived, and then far more frequently acted than either Shakspeare's or Ben Jonson's. This, however, seems no great proof of the superior sagacity of the times; which were, indeed, the licentious days of Charles II. Still it must be confessed, that the plots of Beaumont and Fletcher's plays are ingenious, interesting, and skilfully managed; the characters are forcibly marked; and the dialogue, though often too coarse and licentious, is sprightly and natural.

After the death of Beaumont, it has been said that Fletcher was assisted by Shirley in forming the plots of his plays: but this seems to be advanced on very vague authority. In fact, little is known respecting the life of Fletcher; who died in London, of the plague, in 1625, and was interred in the ancient church of St. Mary Overy, Southwark.

It has been ingeniously remarked, by Philips, on the merits of our chief dramattick writers, that each excelled in his peculiar way: "Ben Jonson, in his elaborate pains and knowledge of authors; Shakspeare, in his pure vein of wit, and natural pathetick height; and Fletcher, in a courtly elegance and genteel familiarity of stile, with a wit and invention so overflowing, that the luxuriant branches were frequently lopped off by his almost inseparable companion, Francis Beaumont."





Published by Harrison & Co. Sep. 1790.

CHAUCER.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER, the father of English poetry, was born at London, in 1328. He was educated at Cambridge; where, at the age of eighteen, he wrote his *Court of Love*. After quitting the university, he visited the continent; and, on his return, became a student of the Inner Temple. His accomplishments soon gained him the friendship of many persons of distinction; through whose means he was introduced at court, and honoured by the protection of Edward III. His chief residence, for many years, was near the palace at Woodstock, in a square stone building, still called Chaucer's House.

In 1373, the king sent him to Geneva, on a commission of importance, which he transacted with great skill and fidelity, and was soon after made a comptroller of the customs. His income being now about 1000*l.* a year, might well enable him to live, in those days, as he says he did, "with dignity in office, and hospitality among his friends." It was in this easy and felicitous situation, that he produced his most humorous Tales. His satires, however, against the priests, said to have been written to please his early friend, the Duke of Lancaster, who favoured the cause of Wickliffe, threw a cloud over this meridian blaze; and, like his noble patron, he was even obliged to quit the kingdom.

Necessity forcing him back to England, he was seized and committed to prison: from whence he procured his enlargement, by confessions which brought on his head a heavy load of calumny. The sense of these misfortunes, gave rise to that excellent treatise, the *Testament of Love*, in imitation of Boethius on the *Consolation of Philosophy*; as well as his admirable treatise on the *Astrolabe*.

The Duke of Lancaster, at last surmounting his troubles, married Lady Catharine Swynford, sister to Chaucer's wife; so that Thomas Chaucer, the poet's son, became allied even to the kings of England.

This union served to throw a gleam of lustre over the evening of his day; and, being now seventy, he retired to Dunnington Castle, near Newbury. The following year he had the satisfaction to see the son of his brother-in-law, Henry IV. seated on the throne; who bestowed several marks of favour on our poet. But the fatigue of court-attendance was now too burdensome to him; and, in his seventy-second year, falling sick at London, he relinquished his last breath, where he received his first. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Dr. Johnson observes, that Chaucer was the first English poet who wrote poetically; and Dryden holds him in the same degree of veneration, as the Grecians held Homer, or the Romans Virgil.



Published by Harrison & Co. Oct. 1. 1790.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.

AN interesting picture of transitory greatness is afforded to the world, in the history of Thomas Wolsey.

This aspiring prelate was the son of a butcher, at Ipswich, in the county of Suffolk, where he was born in 1471. From this lowly situation he emerged, more by the persevering efforts of a lofty ambition than by the extraordinary splendour of his talents, which were certainly great, till he acquired the combined dignities of Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England, Cardinal Priest of St. Cicily, and Pope's Legate.

At once the favourite and the prime-minister of Henry VIII. he long nourished that unbounded lust of power, as well as concupiscence, which disgraced the reign of this despotick monarch. The King and his minister were both alike calculated to exalt the dignity of their high stations, by the ostentatious display of apparent magnificence and splendour, and to debase them by the actual gratifications of mean and grovelling vice.

The Cardinal was avaricious; and he had all the pride of a Dunstan, without any of that haughty churchman's austerity of virtue. His cupidity and ambition rendered him an easy prey, alternately to the courts of France and of Rome, and their influence was thus extended to the prejudice of his sovereign, and consequently to that of his country.

On the death of Pope Leo, Wolsey even aspired to the papal dominion; and again, when Adrian VI. died, made a second struggle to become Pope. These sanguine expectations, however, were defeated; and, in the affair of the King's divorce from Catharine, having refused to wade farther, he fell under his majesty's displeasure. The great seal was demanded; his goods were all seized to the King's use; and himself arrested for high-treason. On his way to London, affected by the sense of his disgrace, he fell sick at the Earl of Shrewsbury's; whence, by slow degrees, he reached as far as Leicester. It is by some thought, that he there put an end to his miserable life, by swallowing poison. He died November 29, 1530; regretting, in his last moments, that he had not served God with the same fidelity as he had served his King.

Wolsey, it must be confessed, displayed much want of magnanimity, and was unworthy of his acquired greatness: yet he was the cherisher of science and the arts. His schemes for the promotion of learning were noble: as appears from the lectures which he founded at Oxford; his college, now Christ Church; and his school at Ipswich.

Many remains of his magnificent ideas in architecture are still extant: even the water for his palace at Hampton Court was conducted by lead pipes across the bed of the River Thames, from a fine spring in Surrey.



Published by H. K. & C. 1704.

MATTHEW PRIOR.

THE county of Middlesex, and that of Dorset, are rivals for the birth of this ingenious poet and distinguished statesman; whose origin is suspected of having been purposely left in doubt. Perhaps the following epitaph was suggested by the conscious humility of his birth.

Heralds and Courtiers, by your leave,
Here lie the bones of Matthew Prior;
A son of Adam and of Eve,
Let Bourbon or Nassau go higher.

He was born July 21, 1664; and, on the death of his father, said to have been a joiner in London, was sent by his uncle, a vintner at Charing Cross, to Westminster school, where he remained for some time under Dr. Busby. The Earl of Dorset, justly celebrated for patronizing genius, having by chance discovered his abilities, sent him to Cambridge, in 1682, at his own expence.

The City Mouse and Country Mouse, written by Prior in conjunction with Mr. Montague, to ridicule Dryden's Hind and Panther, first brought our poet into publick life. In 1691, he attended the Congress at the Hague, as secretary to the embassy; and, on this splendid initiation, so pleased King William, that he was made one of the gentlemen of his bed-chamber. At the treaty of Ryswick, in 1697, he also went secretary to the embassy; and, next year, filled the same office at the court of France. In 1701, he was chosen member of parliament for East Grinstead; and, about this time, is supposed to have first quitted the Whigs, and become a Tory.

Queen Anne employed him, in several important negociations; and his talents for treaties were as universally acknowledged as his wit: but, on the first of August 1714, ensued the downfall of the Tories, and the degradation of Prior. He was imprisoned upwards of two years; but, at the age of fifty-three, obtained his enlargement. The fellowship of his college he had always retained; and was accustomed to urge, as an excuse for doing so, what he now experienced, "that every thing else" was precarious.

A liberal subscription for his works contributed to the comfort of his latter days. He died September 18, 1721, at Wimpole, a seat of the Earl of Oxford, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Prior has written with great variety; for, besides his *Deity*, *Alma*, and *Solomon*, we have tales, epistles, amorous poems, songs, epigrams, and occasional verses. In short, as Dr. Johnson observes, "he has" tried all styles, from the grotesque to the solemn, and has not so "failed in any as to incur derision or disgrace."



Engraved by Harrison & Co. 1794

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

THIS early and distinguished circumnavigator, one of the most celebrated naval heroes who flourished in the brilliant reign of Queen Elizabeth, was born in the year 1545, near the town of Tavistock, in the county of Devon.

He went young to sea, and soon manifested an enterprising and a daring spirit. Having obtained the command of a ship, he made his name immortal by a voyage into the South Seas through the Straits of Magellan; which, at that time, no other Englishman had ever attempted. He sailed from England, on this hazardous expedition, the 13th of December 1577; and, overcoming all the various obstacles that opposed the progress of his discoveries, which are minutely detailed in the well known account of his voyages, he returned safely to his native country, and entered the harbour of Plymouth, November 3, 1580. Thus he performed this new and amazing voyage round the whole globe, in about two years and ten months; a most astonishing effort, if we duly consider the very imperfect state of navigation in those days.

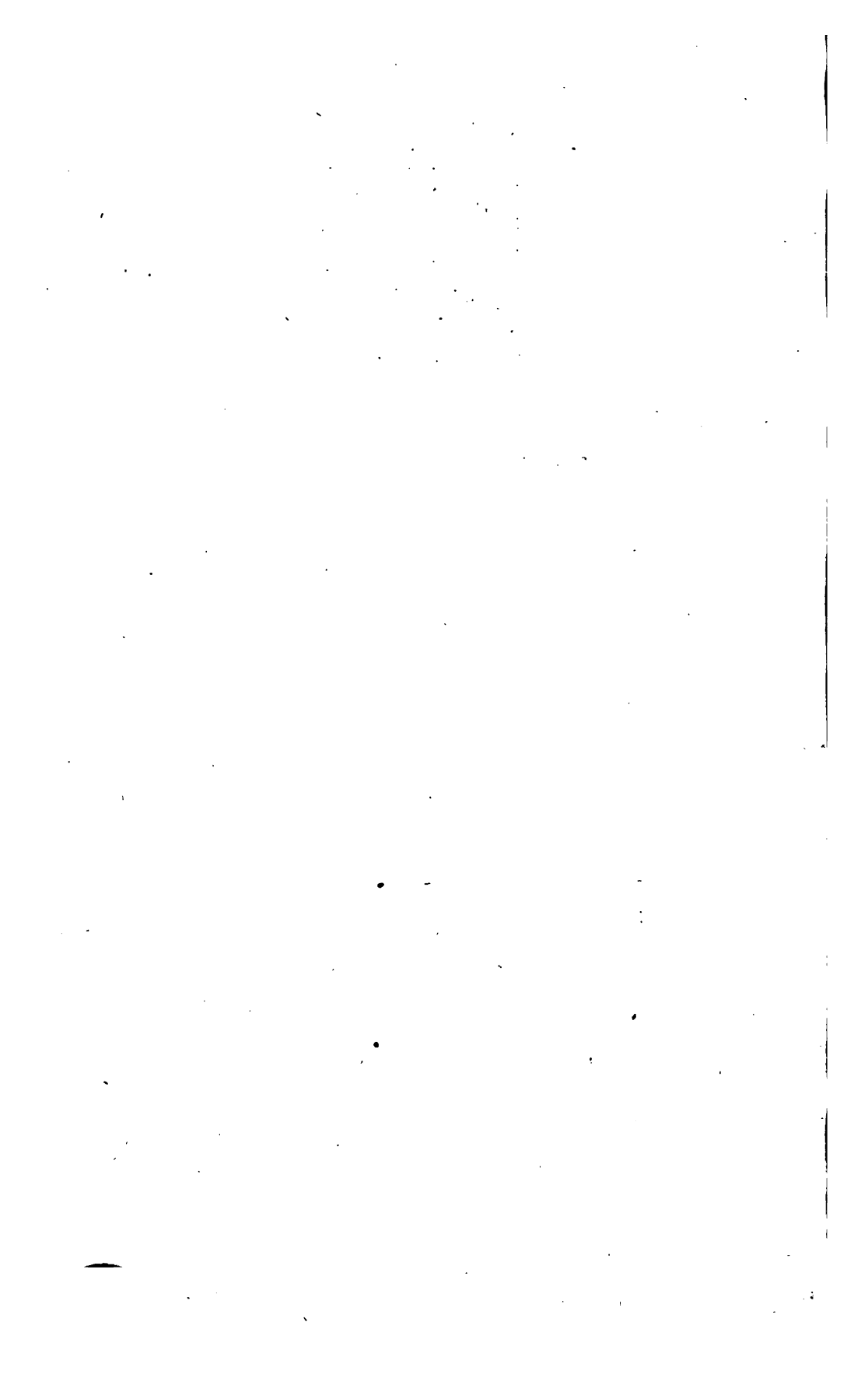
But it was not only in exploring new scenes, and making important discoveries, that the abilities of this great man were conspicuous.

He was fruitful in contrivances to supply every want; and he was indefatigable to achieve what he had the sagacity to plan. To him the inhabitants of Plymouth owed particular obligations: for, in 1587, he undertook to bring water into the town; through the want of which it had, till then, been grievously distressed. This beneficial design he actually contrived to execute, by conducting thither a stream, from springs eight miles distant, in a circuitous course of about twenty.

At the time of the Spanish Armada, when even the magnanimous Elizabeth trembled for the safety of her kingdom, the fertile genius of her favourite Drake, suggested the first use of fire-ships. The happy consequence of this invention, on that glorious occasion, is known to every Briton who has the smallest acquaintance with the history of his own country. It commenced that havoc and confusion, which ended in the total destruction of the Spanish fleet.

The services of Drake were requited by his royal mistress; who, among other marks of her favour, bestowed on him the honour of knighthood.

After rendering to his country the most eminent services, as well by his bravery as by his skill; and while still busily engaged in promoting its welfare, he died in the West Indies, on board his own ship, about the beginning of 1596, being in his fifty-first year.





Published by Harrison & Co. Oct. 1794.

RUBENS.

SIR PETER PAUL RUBENS, usually stiled the prince of painters, was born at Collogne, on the 28th of June 1577; whither his father had retired from Antwerp, where he was sheriff and professor of civil law, on account of the troubles which at that time prevailed in Brabant:

Prodigious pains were taken with the education of Rubens; and the rapid progress he made, in classical learning and the sciences, amply repaid the care of his parents and teachers.

He studied under several eminent artists; particularly, Otho Venius; the Flemish Raphael; and, at the age of twenty-three, became an object of universal admiration. Patronized by the Duke of Mantua, he resided seven years in his palace; pursuing, with all the ardour of genius, that glorious study in which he so eminently excelled.

In consequence of his exalted and refined understanding, he was appointed, by the duke, Envoy to the Court of Spain; where he painted many capital historical pictures.

Attracted by the celebrity of the works of Titian, and Paul Veronese, he visited Venice; and now acquired that fine stile of rich and glowing colouring, for which his works are so remarkable. At Rome, and Genoa, he left many fine specimens of the advantages he had derived from the Venetian school.

About 1620, he was employed, by Marie de Medicis, on the great work of the Luxemburg. He went, soon afterwards, Ambassador to Holland, from the Spanish Court; and, in 1730, visited England in the same dignified character. He was presented to Charles the First by the Duke of Buckingham; and, having concluded a treaty of peace between the two nations, had the honour to receive the order of knighthood, with a rich diamond, and other valuable presents, from that unfortunate monarch. It was to this embassy that our country owes those invaluable specimens of the genius of Rubens, the decorations of the Banqueting House; as well as various other productions of his inimitable pencil, painted for the nobility and gentry while he resided in England. At length he returned to Antwerp, where he was made secretary of state, and lived in great opulence and splendor. He was, however, much afflicted with the gout; and died in 1640, aged sixty-four. He was interred, with all possible honour, in St. James's church, Antwerp. His chair is still preserved with religious veneration.

Rubens not only excelled as a painter, but was well versed in seven living languages, and had a rich fund of classical knowledge. The study of the Belles Lettres, he termed his recreation; the Muses, his inseparable companions.



Published by Harrison & Co. 1790.

LORD BACON.

FRANCIS, Lord Verulam, and Viscount St. Alban's, commonly called Lord Bacon, one of our earliest and greatest philosophers, was son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, lord-keeper of the great-seal, and born at York House, in the Strand, on the 22d of January 1561. He was noticed by Queen Elizabeth, while an infant, for the readiness of his wit; and she frequently called him her young lord-keeper. At twelve years of age, he went to Trinity College, Cambridge; and such was his incredible progress in science, that he had, at sixteen, not only become a compleat master of the whole circle of liberal arts, as then taught, but began to perceive those imperfections in the reigning philosophy, which he afterwards so effectually exposed.

On quitting the university, his father sent him to France; where, before he was nineteen, he wrote a general view of the state of Europe; but, Sir Nicholas dying, he returned to England, and studied the common-law in Gray's Inn. Here he was patronized by Essex; whose death it was afterwards his official duty to palliate, which has drawn on him the reproach of ingratitude.

At the accession of James I. he wrote in favour of the Union of England and Scotland; and, in 1616, was sworn of the privy-council. The next year, he was appointed Keeper of the Great-Seal; and, the year following, Chancellor of England, with the title of Lord Verulam.

In the midst of these honours, and notwithstanding his multiplicity of business, he neither forgot nor neglected his philosophical studies; but published, in 1620, his *Novum Organum Scientiarum*.

Being accused of bribery and corruption, the King prevailed on him to make no defence; and he was, on the 3d of May 1621, fined 40,000*l.* and sentenced to be imprisoned during his majesty's pleasure. The gifts were chiefly to his servants; and, during his trial, on their rising from their seats, as he passed them—"Sit down, my masters," said his lordship; "your rise has been my fall."

He retired, after a short imprisonment, to the shade of a contemplative life, which he had always loved. The King also remitted his fine; and, in the first year of Charles I. he was again summoned to parliament.

His last five years were wholly devoted to philosophical studies. He died April 9, 1626, and was buried in St. Michael's church, St. Alban's.

Addison says, that he had the sound, distinct, comprehensive knowledge of Aristotle, with all the beautiful light graces of Cicero; and Lord Orford, who calls him the Prophet of Arts which Newton was afterwards to reveal, pronounces that his genius and his works must be universally admired as long as science exists.



Published by Harrison & Co. October 1, 1791.

DR. WATTS.

A Character at once eminently good and great, is presented in Dr. Isaac Watts, who was born July 17, 1674, at Southampton, where his father kept a boarding-school. He was the eldest of nine children; and, from his infancy, attached to books. At four years of age, he commenced Latin. Mr. Pinhorn, master of the free-school at Southampton, afterwards instructed him in the other learned languages; and such was his proficiency under this gentleman, that a subscription was proposed for his support at one of our universities. He resolved, however, to take his lot with the dissenters. "Such he was," says Dr. Johnson, "as every Christian church would rejoice to have adopted." Accordingly, in 1690, he studied at an academy under Mr. Rowe; where he had for his fellow-students, Dr. Horte, afterwards Archbishop of Tuam, and Mr. Hughes, the poet. His exercises at this academy displayed a most uncommon degree of philosophical and theological knowledge.

At the age of twenty, he returned to his father's house, where he spent two years in study and devotion. He then became tutor to the son of Sir John Hartopp; and, being chosen assistant to Dr. Chauncey, preached his first sermon on the day that ushered in his twenty-fifth year.

After succeeding Dr. Chauncey, he was reduced by a dangerous illness to so weak a state, that the congregation appointed him an assistant; but his health gradually returning, he again performed the duty till 1712, when a violent fever brought on him a feebleness from which he never perfectly recovered. In this calamitous state, Sir Thomas Abney invited him to his house; where he experienced every attention that respect could inspire, animated by the purest friendship. Sir Thomas died in about eight years; but Dr. Watts remained with the lady and her daughters to the end of his life, being a period of thirty-six years.

During all this time he continued the teacher of a congregation, and occasionally enriched the world with his various works: "of which," says Dr. Johnson, "it is difficult to read a page, without learning, or at least wishing, to be better. The attention is caught by indirect instruction, and he that sat down only to reason is on a sudden compelled to pray." His *Logick* has been received into our universities; and his *Improvement of the Mind* should be recommended to every youth. As a poet, he was certainly respectable, if not great; his *Hymns* and *Spiritual Songs for Children* are absolutely inimitable. He died of a gradual decay, November 25, 1748, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

To sum up his character, in two words, he was a CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHER; this comprehends all that is truly valuable, for it denotes that he was wise and good.



Engraved by Harrison & Pells in 1790.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

FOR genius, for enterprize, and for heroism, no monarch of modern times may be put in competition with the late Charles Frederick, King of Prussia; who filled the throne for nearly half a century, and gave his country a weight in the scale of empires, which at once awed and astonished Europe.

This magnanimous prince, the eldest son of Frederick William, by Sophia Dorothea, daughter of George I. King of England, was born on the 24th of January 1712. His early years were embittered by the tyranny of his father, who was equally avaricious and austere. At the age of twenty-one, he was married, against his will, to a princess with whom he never could be induced to live, though he always treated her with respect.

His knowledge in every branch of science was inconceivable; he wrote exquisite verses, composed several beautiful pieces of musick, and was one of the finest performers on the German-flute in the whole world. To which may be added, that, besides his proficiency in the dead languages, he spoke most of the modern ones with fluency and grace.

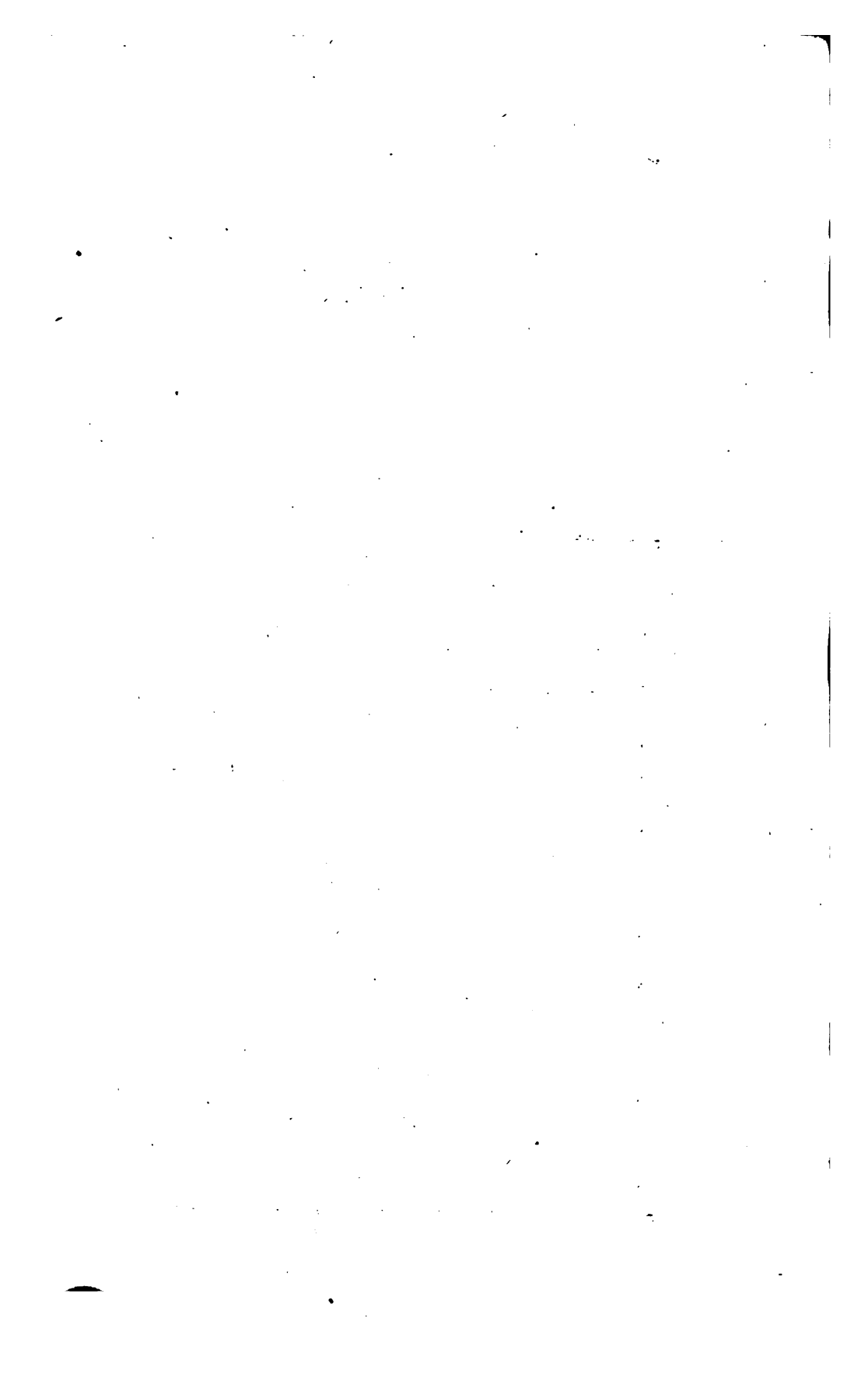
On the death of his father, in 1740, he resolved to govern with little ministerial assistance. He tolerated all religions; and continued that correspondence with learned men, which he commenced when a prince.

In the milder pursuits of polite literature, however, he had not neglected to study the necessary operations of war; and the magnanimity with which he carried his theory into effect, during the long and frequent conflicts in which he was engaged, is known to all the world. Few have fought so many battles with such general success; fewer still been so little depressed by occasional defeat. He rose superior to all misfortunes; and his alliance was courted by every power in Europe.

His life was one continued scene of activity. Artists and ingenious men of every nation, were invited into his dominions; he erected innumerable publick edifices; formed a variety of national establishments; and made upwards of three hundred towns and villages arise as by enchantment, on marshes, waste lands, and deserts. In short, he amended defective laws, made commercial regulations, and civilized and polished the rudeness and barbarism of his subjects.

This illustrious monarch possessed almost every characteristic of greatness. He was, at once, a hero, a philosopher, an historian, a legislator, a poet, a musician, and a wit. In either of these endowments, he had sufficient ability to have formed singly an eminent character.

Frederick the Great, as he was often deservedly called, died of a lethargy, on the 17th of August 1786.





Published by Harrison & Co. in 1790.

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE.

THE celebrated Sir William Temple was born at London, in 1629. Educated, from his earliest infancy, under the immediate care of his uncle, Dr. Hammond; at the age of seventeen, he went to Emanuel College, Cambridge, where the learned Cudworth was his tutor. On quitting the university, he travelled into France, Holland, Germany, and other parts of Europe, and acquired a thorough knowledge of the French and Spanish languages.

After his return to England, in 1654, he married a daughter of Sir Thomas Osborne; and, during the usurpation of Cromwell, lived privately in Ireland, cultivating his literary talents, and devoting all his leisure to philosophical and historical pursuits.

At the Restoration, he became a member of parliament in the sister kingdom; and, being invited by Charles II. to reside in England, his abilities, as well as his integrity, were universally recognized. Sir William was, indeed, a most able statesman; and so well pleased were the Dutch with his negotiations, that they expressed, in a letter to his sovereign, their very high sense of his capacity and conduct. But he no sooner perceived the too powerful interest of the French party at the English court, than he solicited his immediate dismissal; assuring the king, that he had resolved to wear away the remainder of his life as a good private subject, without ever more interfering with publick affairs.

Twenty years of his life, had, indeed, already been devoted to the service of his country; and he felt himself entitled to pass the remainder of his days in a state of ease and tranquillity.

He now divided his time between his library and his garden: and, during his long seclusion from publick life, was frequently visited by King William, who greatly profited by his advice.

As a writer, Sir William Temple has claims to attention, for several able performances. His *Observations on the United Provinces of the Netherlands*, is a valuable production, written not merely from speculation, but in consequence of an actual survey; his *Memoirs* form a very entertaining and interesting work; and his *Miscellanea* consist of ten pleasing *Essays* on literary and political topics.

The person of Sir William Temple was remarkably handsome; but it must not be concealed, that he was spleenetic, and had a mind too much tinctured by vanity. Bishop Burnet, indeed, has depicted him in very dark colours; but the bishop's censures probably had their origin in our author's philosophical sentiments concerning religion.

He died at Moor Park, near Farnham, in Surry, about the close of the year 1700, being then in his seventy-second year.



Published by Harrison & Co. Aug. 1. 1790.

GRAY.

THOMAS GRAY, our British Pindar, the son of a respectable citizen, was born in Cornhill, December 26, 1716. He received his grammatical education at Eton school; and, in 1734, removed to St. Peter's College, Cambridge.

His first poetical composition was his Ode to Spring; and this, with the Ode to Eton College, and Hymn to Adversity, was written in 1740. He wrote little, but studied with continued ardour.

Our poet proposed devoting himself to the profession of the law; but laid aside this intention, on receiving from his friend, Mr. Horace Walpole, an invitation to accompany him on his travels. An unfortunate disagreement, however, arising between our tourists, he returned to London in 1741.

About this time, his father died; and he found his patrimony too scanty to permit him to prosecute his law studies: he therefore gave a new direction to his talents; and, in 1742, took a bachelor's degree at Cambridge. Here he principally resided; and, as Dr. Johnson has remarked, "without liking the place or it's inhabitants, or pretending to like them, he passed, except a short residence at London, the rest of his life."

In 1750, he published his immortal Elegy, written in a Country Church-yard; and which, indeed, first made him known to the publick. Those sublime Pindarick effusions, the Bard, and the Progress of Poetry, appeared in 1757. This year he refused the appointment of poet laureat.

The life of our poet is so little diversified, that the most important circumstance in it is, a temporary removal from Cambridge, to his lodgings in Southampton Row, for the purpose of gratifying his literary curiosity, by an examination of the manuscripts at the opening of the British Museum in 1759. He passed three years, in reading and transcribing.

In 1768, he obtained, without solicitation, the Professorship of Modern History, in the University of Cambridge. Three years after this promotion, he died of the gout, July 31, 1772.

Gray offers a splendid instance of the force of superior genius. His poems might, perhaps, be comprized in a single sheet; yet is their author immortal, and his school crouded with votarists. He displays, more than any other poet, the requisites of what may be called pure pœsy. Sublime, fervid, and elegant, he communicates the most exalted enthusiasm; but it can only be duly estimated by those who, like himself, are familiarized to—

"Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn."



Published by Harrison & Co. Aug. 11. 1790.

DRYDEN.

JOHN DRYDEN, universally esteemed one of our chief poets; was born on the 9th of August 1631, at Aldwinckle, in Northamptonshire. He was brought up at Westminster, under the celebrated Dr. Busb., and, in 1650, became a student of Trinity College, Cambridge.

He had, at school, distinguished himself by some promising verses; and, on the death of Cromwell, in 1658, he ventured to publish his Heroick Stanzas on the occasion. Two years afterwards, he celebrated the happy Restoration of Charles II. This was changing sides, it is true; but the poet's inconstancy was sanctioned by that of the nation.

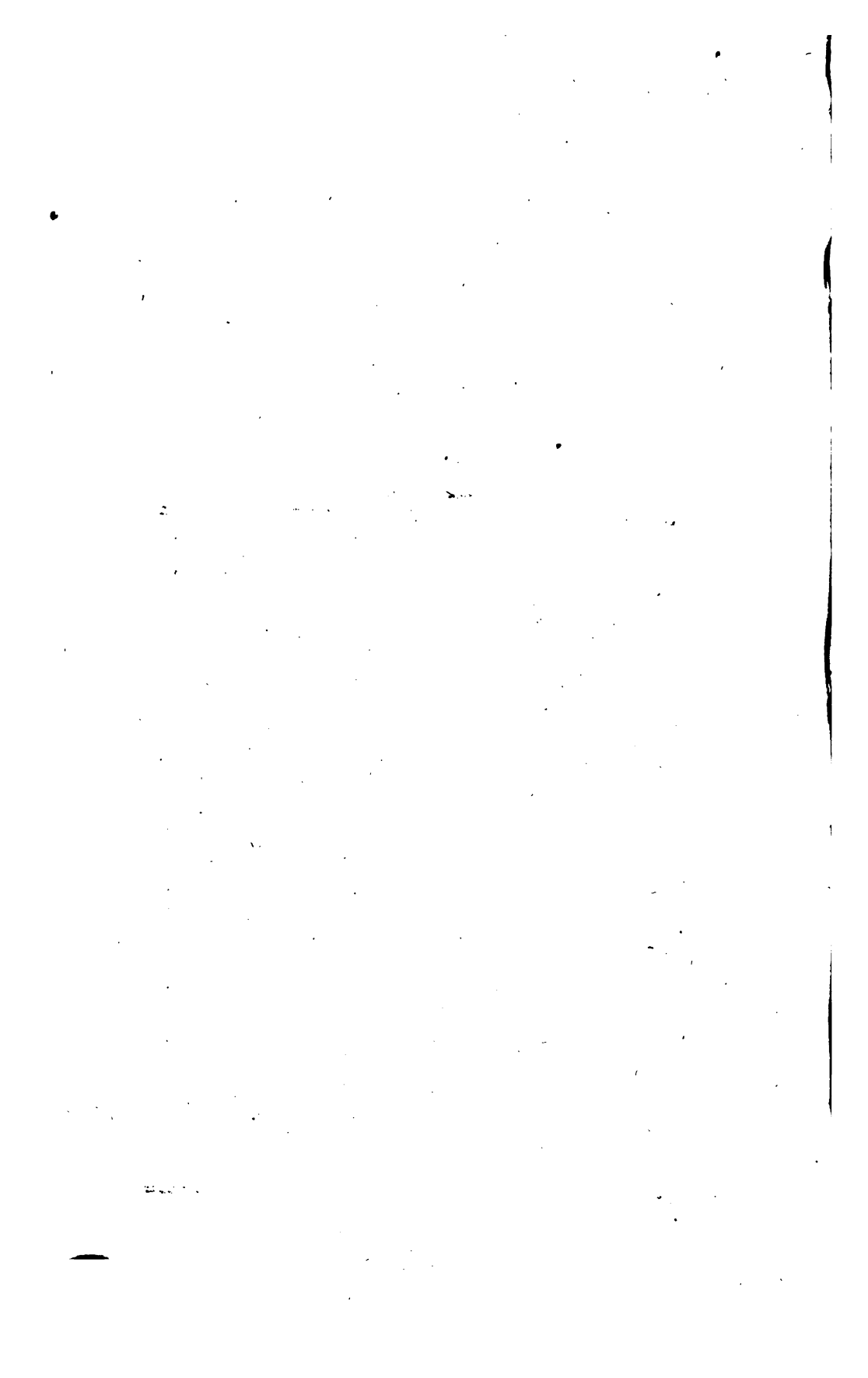
In 1663, he commenced dramatick writer; and kept possession of the stage for many years. The number of his plays is twenty-seven, of which few are ever performed. It is not, in these productions, that we must look for the genius of Dryden. Yet, from the multifarious mass may the patient refiner extract much of the most precious metal. His prefaces comprehend a fine system of dramatick criticism.

Absalom and Achitophel, which appeared in 1681, has been esteemed the best political satire ever written. In 1682, he produced his Religio Laici; a curious poem, against Deists, Papists, and Presbyterians.

On the death of Charles II. to whom he had been appointed poet-laureat, he wrote his Threnodia Augustalis; and, to the astonishment of every body, at the accession of James II. turned Roman Catholick. Some apology was necessary; and, in 1687, he published his Hind and Panther, which represents the Romish Church as the pure and the Church of England as the spotted animal. At the Revolution, in 1688, he was accordingly dismissed from the laureatship; but the Earl of Dorset, greatly to his honour, continued to pay him the usual pension.

There are, perhaps, few great poets wholly untinctured with what is called superstition: Dryden, in particular, is well known to have believed even in judicial astrology, and to have cast the nativities of his children. All this, by the philosopher, is deemed imbecility of mind: yet the faculties of Dryden by no means appeared wanting in vigour. He produced, at the age of sixty-six, his celebrated translation of Virgil; which was followed, the next year, by what are denominated his Fables, including that charming Ode for St. Cecilia's Day, "which has always been considered," says Dr. Johnson, "as exhibiting the highest flight of fancy, and the exactest nicety of art." He died May 1, 1701.

Congreve, who knew Dryden well, represents his moral character as in every respect not only blameless, but amiable; and, "as to his writings," he says, "no man hath written, in our language, so much, and so various matter, and in so various manners, so well."





Published by Harrison & Co. Aug. 1. 1740

REMBRANDT.

THE famous Rembrandt Van Rhyn, more generally known by the single name Rembrandt, was born in 1606. This truly original genius was the son of a miller, who lived within three miles of Leyden.

Young Rembrandt evinced, in his childhood, a strong propensity for painting; and, having early in life produced a picture of great merit, he was advised to dispose of it at Amsterdam. He accordingly carried it thither under his arm, and soon found a purchaser, who gave him a hundred florins. Elated with his success, he disdained to trudge back on foot, but boldly ventured to take a place in the waggon!

Such was his attachment, when young, to the study of the art, that he neglected every other acquirement; and, it is said, could very barely read. This was, perhaps, the true cause why he associated through life with vulgar company, for which he has been so much censured.

His aim was, to be a faithful delineator of Nature; but, like most of the Flemish painters, he did not sufficiently reflect, that what was before him might not always represent Nature in her finest situations. He imbibed, in short, the heavy taste of his country; but, possessing the native powers of great genius, they burst through every impediment.

He drew abundance of portraits, with wonderful strength, sweetness, and resemblance. Even in his etching, which was dark, and as peculiar as his style of painting, every individual stroke performed its part, and expressed the very flesh, as well as the spirit, of the person represented.

He generally resided at Amsterdam, where he obtained very high prices for his works; and he had so many commissions, that his portraits were often slightly sketched. His inordinate desire of gain made him sell his prints in every state, from the etched outline to the last finishing.

So completely, indeed, was he the slave of avarice, that he subsisted on the coarsest food; a red herring, and cheese, constituted his daily repast: yet he is said to have cleared annually three hundred pounds by his pupils alone.

Though a man of singular humour, he was often disgustingly rude to persons of superior rank, whom his great reputation attracted.

He died at Amsterdam, in great affluence, at the age of sixty-eight.

The works of Rembrandt are valued for their forcible expression: his heads of old men are singularly striking. He gave to the various parts of the face a character of life and truth which can never be too much admired. The strong lights, so conspicuous in all his pictures, are said to have been effected by means of a hole or aperture formed purposely to admit them.



Published by Harrison & Pilsbury, 1794.

EDMUND WALLER, ESQ.

THE poet Waller, one of the earliest refiners of English verse, was born March 3, 1605, at Coleshill, in the county of Hertford. He was the son of Robert Waller, Esq. of Amersham, Bucks, by a sister of the celebrated Hampden; and his father, dying while he was an infant, left him a yearly income of 3500l.

He was educated at Eton, from whence he went to King's College, Cambridge; and is said to have represented the borough of Amersham in parliament soon after he had attained his sixteenth year. At eighteen, he produced his admired poem on the Prince's Escape at St. Andero.

Though our poet was so extremely rich, he acquired additional wealth, by marrying a great heiress in the city; and, becoming a widower at five and twenty, he long cherished a poetical passion for Lady Dorothea Sidney, eldest daughter of the Earl of Leicester, whom he has rendered immortal by the celebrated name of Sacharissa. But the language of poetry is too artificial for genuine love; and the lips are generally more persuasive than the pen. The flattering verses of Waller she no doubt vastly admired; but she gave her hand to the Earl of Sunderland.

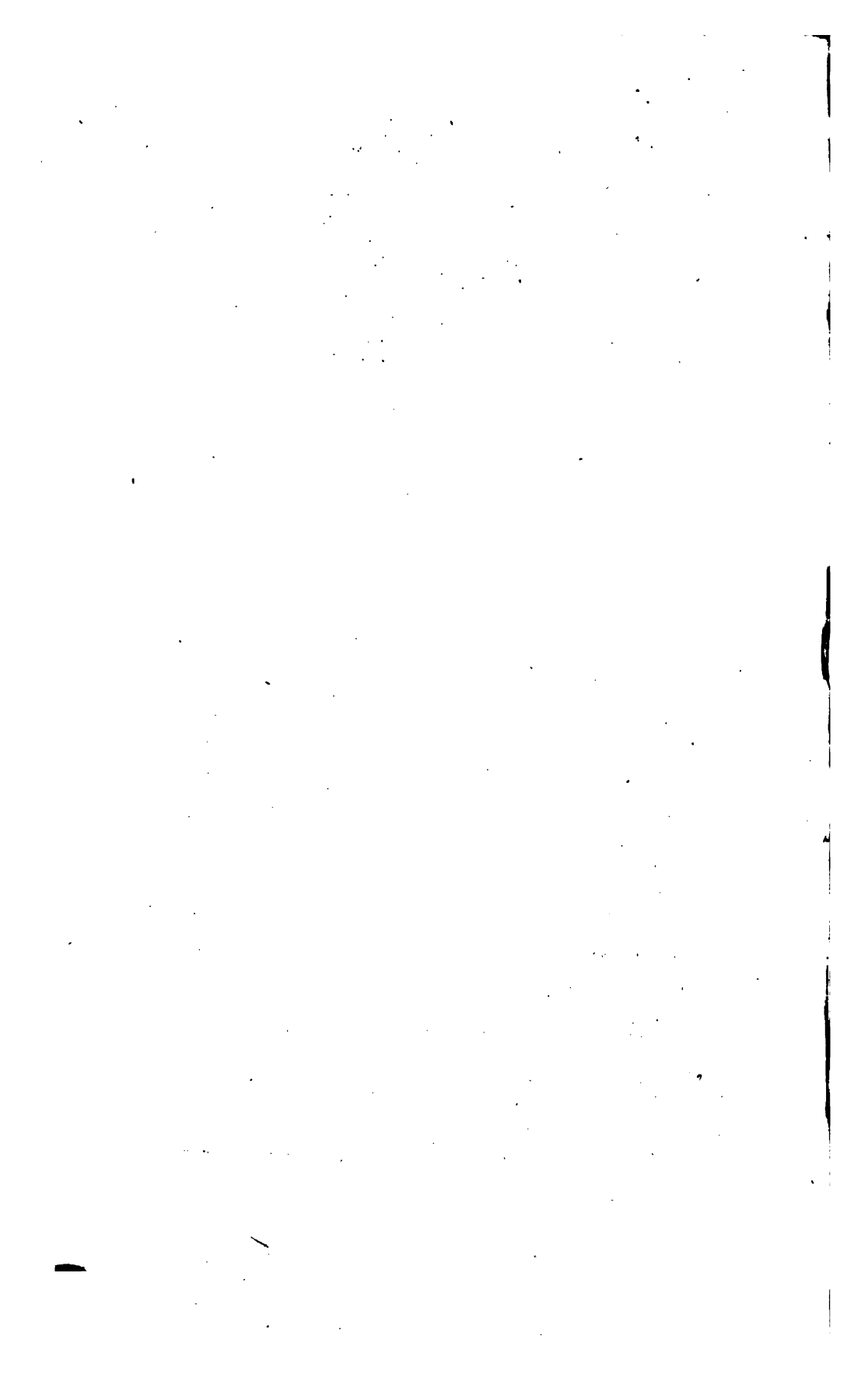
Our poet's political life must be collected from the history of the tempestuous times in which he lived. In the variable scenes of those days, he was no inconsiderable actor; and, like a true actor, he performed many parts. He opposed the court, in 1640; and, in 1643, having been detected in a plot to reduce the city of London for the king, though he saved his life, he was fined 10,000l. and compelled to retire into France, where he spent great part of his fortune. Having obtained a pardon, he returned to England, and was taken into favour by Cromwell. At the Restoration, he was patronized by Charles II.

Dr. Johnson says—"It is not possible to read, without some contempt and indignation, poems of the same author, ascribing the highest degree of power and piety to Charles I. then transferring the same power and piety to Oliver Cromwell, now inviting Oliver to take the crown, and then congratulating Charles II. on his recovered right."

At the age of eighty, on the accession of James II. in 1685, Waller was returned member of parliament for Saltash, in Cornwall.

He died of the dropsy, October 21, 1687, at Beaconsfield, in the county of Bucks, where he had resided many years.

Much of Waller's reputation arose from the softness and smoothness of his numbers. Elegance and gaiety are the general characteristics of his poetry; yet his verses are not always free from expletives, and they are sometimes even defective in harmony.





Published by Harrison & Co. Nov. 1794.

CAMDEN.

THE learned and venerable William Camden, the boast of British antiquaries, was born at London, May 2, 1551. His father was a painter, probably of heraldry, and he was first sent to Christ's Hospital, afterwards to St. Paul's School; from whence, at the age of fifteen, he went to Oxford. His inclination for the study of antiquities began early to be developed. While he was an undergraduate at Christ Church, he surveyed all the churches and chapels in Oxford, and gave a description of the monuments and arms which they contained.

In 1575, Dr. Gabriel Goodman, Dean of Westminster, who had given him much friendly assistance at the university, having procured him to be chosen second master of Westminster School, he began to digest his collections for his great work, the *Britannia*, to which he devoted all his spare hours and holidays, for ten years. It was written in Latin, and first appeared in 1586.

In 1593, he succeeded Dr. Edward Grant, as head-master of Westminster School; and, the year following, published the fourth edition of his *Britannia*, corrected and greatly enlarged. It was now violently attacked by Rafe Brooke, York Herald: but Camden, in his *Defence*, proves that, in many places objected to, himself was right, and his antagonist wrong; and, in Dr. Smith's interleaved copy of the *Britannia*, at Oxford, there is a formal Recantation by Brooke.

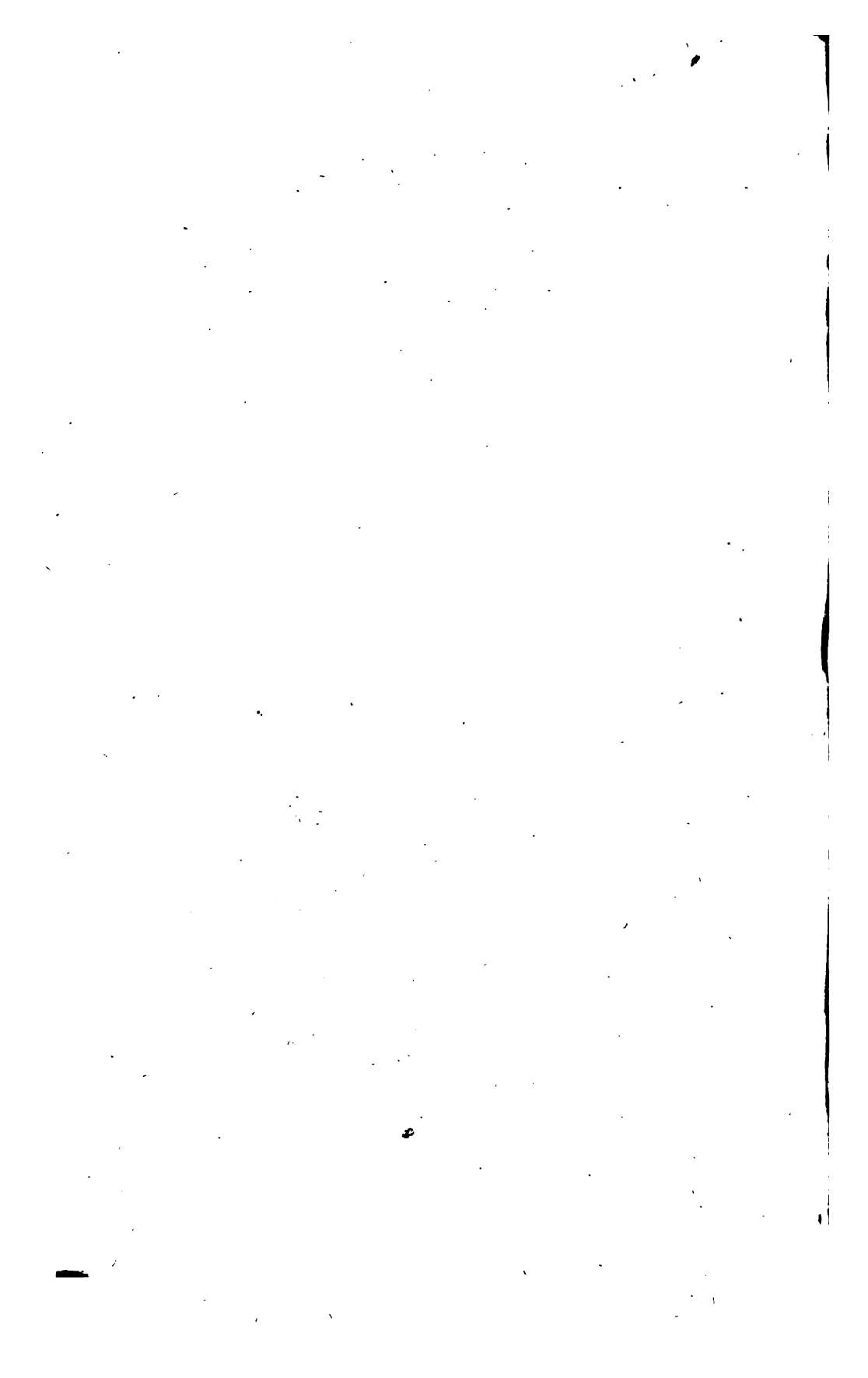
In 1597, Camden published his Greek grammar, which was received in all the publick schools in England. Our author was, the same year, promoted to be Clarenceux king at arms.

In 1600, he published an account of all the monuments of the kings, queens, nobles, and others, in Westminster Abbey, with their inscriptions. Four years afterwards produced his *Remains of a greater work concerning Britain*, the inhabitants, their languages, names, surnames, empresses, wise speeches, poesies, and epitaphs; being a collection of such curious articles as he had obtained while treasuring materials for his *Britannia*.

In 1615, appeared his *Annals of Queen Elizabeth*; and, in 1622, he founded a lecture on history, in the university of Oxford, to which he devoted the manor of Bexley, in Kent, worth 400l. a year.

He died at Chiselhurst, November 9, 1623; where he had chiefly resided during the last fourteen years of his life, and directed by his will that he should be buried. His executors, however, interred him, with great funeral pomp, in Westminster Abbey.

Camden was not less famous for his virtues, than for his learning. In his writings he was candid, in his conversation easy, and in his life exemplary. He is the chaste model of all succeeding antiquaries.





Published by Harrison W.C. Nov. 1794.

BUCHANAN.

THE celebrated George Buchanan was born in Scotland, in 1506. His life was a series of adventures.

He was sent to Paris for education; but returned, in two years. Afterwards, he served a campaign with the French auxiliaries; and, having suffered much hardship, was confined by sickness all the winter. On his recovery, he studied logic at St. Andrew's; but soon drew his tutor to Paris. He was now only eighteen; and, embracing the tenets of Martin Luther, he struggled with distress for two years, and then went to teach grammar in the college of St. Barbe. In this situation he was found by the young Earl of Cassels; who, being charmed with his talents, kept him five years, and then took him into Scotland. On the earl's death, being about to return to France, James V. retained him as tutor to his natural son, afterwards the famous Earl of Murray, regent of Scotland. Having offended the monks, by his satirical verses, he fled to England; but finding that, under Henry VIII. Lutherans and Papists were both burnt in the same fire, he went over to France. From Paris, where he found Cardinal Beaton, one of his greatest enemies, he privately retired to Bourdeaux. There he for three years officiated as tutor at the new publick school; and wrote the *Baptista*, the *Medea*, and two other tragedies. Hearing, then, that the cardinal had made interest for his apprehension, he escaped into Portugal; where he became tutor in the infant university of Coimbra, and translated the *Psalms of David* into Latin verse. After suffering much, from the persecutions of his old enemies, the monks, he obtained his liberty, and came over to England. Owing to the confusion of the times, however, in 1552, he again ventured to France. Two years afterwards, he dedicated his tragedy of *Jephtha* to the Marshal of France, who made him preceptor to his son. In this situation he continued five years; and then returning to Scotland, in 1563, he joined the reformed church. In two years, he again visited France; but was recalled, in 1566, by Mary Queen of Scots, who made him principal of St. Leonard's College, in the university of St. Andrew, and intended to give him the care of her infant son. But the queen's troubles coming on, he joined the Earl of Murray's party; and even wrote his *Detection*, reflecting on her character and conduct. The government, however, made him preceptor to the young king, James VI.

Buchanan employed the last twelve years of his life in writing the *History of Scotland*; and is universally held to have happily united the force and brevity of Sallust, with the elegance and perspicuity of Livy.

He died at Edinburgh, February 28, 1582, aged seventy-six years.



Published by Harrison & Co. in 1794.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

THIS illustrious character, son of Sir Henry Sidney, by Mary, eldest daughter of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, was born in the year 1554, at Penshurst in Kent.

At the age of seventeen, having been for some years a student of Christ Church, Oxford, he set out on his travels; and, being at Paris, on the 24th of August 1572, during the dreadful massacre of the Huguenots, fled for protection, with other Englishmen, to the house of our ambassador, Walsingham. After making the tour of Europe, he returned to England in 1575; and, the following year, was sent by Queen Elizabeth to condole the Emperor Randolph, and other princes of Germany, on the death of Maximilian.

In 1579, he ventured to oppose the queen's intended marriage with the Duke of Anjou, by a letter which is preserved in the Cabala.

A quarrel with Edward Vere, Earl of Oxford, which arose on some trifling occasion at the tennis-court, and the particulars of which were laid before the queen, induced him, the next year, to withdraw himself from court; and, during this retirement, he is supposed to have written his celebrated romance, called *Arcadia*, for the amusement of his noble and learned sister Mary, wife of Henry Earl of Pembroke.

In 1582, he was knighted by her majesty; and, in 1585, would have accompanied Sir Francis Drake to America, but the queen appointed him Governor of Flushing, and made him General of Horse. In July 1586, he surprized Axil; and he preserved the honour of the English army at Gravelin. Such, indeed, was his universal reputation, that he was solicited to become a candidate for the crown of Poland. But the glory of our English Marcellus, though bright, was transient; being mortally wounded, at the memorable battle of Zutphen, September 22, 1586, he was carried to Arnheim, where he died in about three weeks.

His body was brought over to England, and buried in St. Paul's cathedral. Both universities published verses to his memory; and James, then King of Scotland, afterwards of England, honoured him by an epitaph of his own composition.

The merits of Sir Philip Sidney have been thought over-rated. But surely he, who was revered by the bravest and the most learned men in Europe; who was the friend, as well as patron, of Spenser, and the other poets of his time; who himself possessed genius and learning; and who, for his reputed wisdom and valour, was invited to govern a country of which he was not a native, and died while nobly fighting the battles of his own, at the age of thirty-two; deserves not to have his fame recorded by a niggardly and parsimonious hand.



Published by Knapton & Co. Nov. 1794

CONGREVE.

THE name of William Congreve ranks high in the list of our dramatick writers. He was born, in 1672, at Bardsa, near Leeds, in Yorkshire; but his father, who was of a very ancient Staffordshire family, going to reside in Ireland, took him to Kilkenny, and afterwards to Dublin, at which place he received his education.

At the age of sixteen, having manifested very uncommon talents, he was placed in the Middle Temple, London, as a law-student. But, though he remained there several years, he attended very little to his professional studies. The impulse to become an author was irresistible; and a novel, called *Incognita*, written at the age of seventeen, was his first literary work. Though his celebrated comedy, the *Old Batchelor*, was some time making its way to the stage, it was actually performed in 1693, when Congreve could not well be more than twenty-one. Dryden, with all the liberality of sterling genius, declared that he had never before seen such a first play.

This comedy recommended the author to the patronage of Lord Halifax, who generously made him one of the commissioners for licensing hackney-coaches; and, soon after, gave him a place in the Pipe Office, and appointed him commissioner of wine licences, worth 600*l.* a year.

The next season, Congreve produced his *Double Dealer*; and, the year following, to open the new theatre, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, under the direction of Betterton, *Love for Love*. Two years afterwards, to demonstrate his powers for tragedy, he wrote the *Mourning Bride*.

Whatever may be objected to these pieces, which in point of dramatick merit are not much exceeded by any thing in possession of the stage, it is to be remembered, with admiration and astonishment, that they were all produced before he had completed his twenty-fifth year.

In 1698, Collier published his celebrated attack on the immorality of the Stage; to which, though many of the charges are unanswerable, Congreve published an ingenious reply.

The *Way of the World* was his last play: for, not being received with the merited approbation, he could never be again induced to commit his quiet and his fame to the caprices of an audience.

Congreve's latter days were rendered miserable by a cataract in his eyes, added to the tortures of the gout. Being overturned in his chariot, at Bath, he received some inward hurt; and died a few months after, January 29, 1729, at his house in Surrey Street, Strand. He was buried, with great funeral pomp, in Westminster Abbey; where a monument has been erected to his memory, by Henrietta, Dutchess of Marlborough, to whom he bequeathed a legacy of 10,000*l.*



Published by Johnson & Co. 1791.

BUTLER.

OF Samuel Butler, a poet of such exquisite humour, that he has been esteemed the first and last of his kind, very little is with certainty known. He was born at Strensham, in Worcestershire; and his father, a farmer, gave him a good education at Worcester grammar-school, from whence he is supposed to have went to Cambridge.

In the first situation to which he can be traced, we find him clerk to Mr. Jefferys, an eminent justice of the peace, at Earl's Croomb in his native county. It seems probable, therefore, that he had acquired some knowledge of the law. In this situation, he found leisure not only for literary study, but to indulge both in musick and painting.

Butler assisted the learned Selden, who was steward to the Countess of Kent; and he afterwards resided in Bedfordshire, with Sir Samuel Luke, one of Cromwell's officers, to whom he probably officiated as clerk or secretary. It was in this situation, that he first made those observations on the characters of the sectaries, which finally produced his incomparable *Hudibras*.

After the Restoration, he became secretary to the Earl of Carberry, lord president of the principality of Wales; who, when the Court of the Marches was revived, bestowed on our poet the stewardship of Ludlow Castle. He now married Mrs. Herbert, a gentlewoman of good family; who possessed a considerable fortune, which is said to have been lost by bad securities.

The first part of *Hudibras*, containing three cantos, was published in 1663; and it became popular at court through the taste and influence of the Earl of Dorset. The king quoted, the courtiers studied, and every royalist applauded it. In the year following he published the second part; which was received with similar éclat. Lord Clarendon is said by Wood, to have given him reason to hope for places and employments of value and credit, but no such advantages did he ever obtain.

In 1678, he published his third part; still leaving imperfect a poem, of which no man has presumed to attempt the completion.

He died miserably poor, in September 1680; and was buried at the private expence of Mr. Longueville, a gentleman of the Temple, in Covent Garden church-yard. About forty years afterwards, Mr. Barber, an eminent printer, and Lord Mayor of London, erected to his memory a monument in Westminster Abbey.

Though *Hudibras* has fixed, on a firm basis, the fame of our author, his posthumous works, consisting chiefly of characters, and written in prose, possess an infinite fund of wit and humour. His name, says Dr. Johnson, "can only perish with our language."



Published by Harrison & Co. Nov. 1790.

DR. YOUNG.

EDWARD YOUNG, one of our greatest poets, and most eminent divines, was born at Upham, near Winchester, in June 1681; his father, afterwards Dean of Sarum, being then rector of that place.

From Winchester school he went to Oxford, in 1703. The *Epistle to Lord Lansdowne*, in 1712, has been called his first poetical flight; but it is certain that he had long before written his celebrated *Last Day*.

The tragedy of *Busiris* appeared in 1719; and his dramatick chief d'œuvre, the *Revenge*, in 1721. His satires, under the title of the *Universal Passion*, were first published collectively in 1728. In this year, having just entered into orders, he was appointed chaplain to George II. and withdrew the *Brothers*, then in rehearsal, from the stage.

In July 1730, he was presented to the rectory of Wellwyn, in Hertfordshire; and, in May 1731, married Lady Elizabeth Lee, daughter of the Earl of Litchfield, and widow of Colonel Lee. By this lady he had a son, to whom Frederick Prince of Wales was godfather. Lady Young died in 1741; her death being probably hastened by the decease of an amiable daughter, one of her three children by Colonel Lee, and who had been just married, at the age of seventeen, to the Honourable Mr. Temple, son of Lord Palmerston, who soon followed his beloved bride. Mr. and Mrs. Temple are the supposed *Philander* and *Narcissa*, in the *Night Thoughts*; which inimitable and immortal work probably owes its execution, if not its origin, to Dr. Young's keen sense of these calamities.

In 1753, the *Brothers* was at length permitted to appear on the stage, that he might be enabled to give a thousand pounds to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; and, at the close of the following year, he produced his interesting little work, the *Centaur* not *Fabulous*.

Like all men willing to retire from the world, he found the world quite as willing to retire from him. His great talents procured him no preferment till 1761; when, at the age of fourscore, he was appointed clerk of the closet to the Princess Dowager of Wales. This situation he enjoyed during the remainder of his life, which terminated in April 1763.

Dr. Johnson says, that the numbers of Dr. Young are "sometimes smooth, and sometimes rugged; his style is sometimes concatenated, and sometimes abrupt; sometimes diffusive, and sometimes concise." It is curious, that he afterwards remarks of our poet, "*antithesis is his favourite*." Alas! how imperfect are we all! How eager to pluck the mote out of our neighbour's eye, how prone to neglect the beam in our own! "But," concludes Johnson, "with all his faults, he was a man of genius, and a poet." He was still more, for he was a devout christian.



Published by Harrison & Co. Dec. 7. 1791.

RAPHAEL.

THE divine Raphael, as this illustrious Italian painter is usually called, was born at Urbin, on Good Friday, in the year 1483. His father being an indifferent painter, he early studied under Pietro Perugino; and soon perceiving the full extent of his master's capacity, went to Siena for farther improvement. From hence, while engaged to make the cartoons for the pictures of the library, he was tempted suddenly to visit Florence, by the fame of Michael Angelo and Leonardo da Vinci. Inspired by their works, and attached to the chaste designs of the ancient statues and bas reliefs, he formed a style of his own, which rendered him one of the chief painters the world has ever known.

Being alike eminent as an architect, he was employed by Pope Leo X. to build St. Peter's, at Rome, and lived in the greatest splendor imaginable. He had many scholars, and most of the eminent masters were ambitious of working under him. Such was his fame, that Cardinal Bibiano offered him his niece in marriage; and he is said to have engaged himself: but Leo X. having given him reason to expect a cardinal's hat, he contrived to delay the performance of his promise.

His manners were peculiarly pleasing, and he was a very handsome man; but, immoderately addicted to those females who are the reproach of their sex, his constitution was destroyed, and he was taken off in the flower of his age. He died on his birth-day, in 1520; and was buried in the church of the Rotunda, at Rome.

Raphael is said to have surpassed all modern painters, by possessing more excellences than any other; and it is thought, by many, that he nearly equalled the best ancients. His naked figures possess not all the learning of Michael Angelo, and he falls short of that sublime master's grandeur and dignity of conception; but his design is more pleasing and pure. He painted not with so good, so full, and so graceful a manner, as Corregio; nor did he produce that charming contrast of light and shadow, or the inimitable strong and free colouring, which distinguish the works of Titian: but he had, beyond comparison, a better disposition in his pieces, than either of those great men, or any that have succeeded them. His choice of attitudes, of heads, of ornaments; the suitableness of his draperies; his manner of designing; his varieties, his contrasts, his expression; formed the perfection of beauty and of grace.

Sir Joshua Reynolds has been denominated our British Raphael: and, though we see him fall short of the sweetest painter of the modern world; it is, perhaps, because he nobly dared to attempt a still higher flight, on the vigorous pinion of his darling Michael Angelo.



Published by Harrison. Vol. 2. Dec. 1. 1794

DR. HAWKESWORTH.

OF Dr. John Hawkesworth, one of our most amiable moral writers, few particulars are known. He was a native of London, and born in the memorable year 1715. There seems good reason to believe that his birth was humble; and that, though his native genius, and insatiable thirst of knowledge, supplied every want, he had received but a very slender education, when he was placed as an apprentice to a watchmaker. How long he remained in this situation cannot now be ascertained; we may, however, conclude that he soon forsook this business, to pursue more congenial occupations.

Having bettered his circumstances by marriage, he resided at Bromley in Kent; and, aided by the friendship of a gentlewoman of large fortune, rose to a Directorship of the Honourable East India Company.

His first literary efforts, we believe, appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*; of which publication he was for some time editor.

The great work of Dr. Hawkesworth was his *Adventurer*; and a great work it is! In purity of moral, in entertainment, and elegance of diction, it may rank with the first of our periodical works. It was completed March 4, 1754; and procured our author the degree of Doctor of Laws.

On the accession of his present Majesty, Dr. Hawkesworth produced the charming oriental tale of *Almorán and Hamet*, dedicated by permission to the King. He also wrote the beautiful little musical entertainment of *Edgar and Emmeline*, which is still occasionally performed.

Dr. Hawkesworth's translation of *Telemachus* is the best we possess. It is splendid, but redundant. No man has yet reached the dignified simplicity of the original. Perhaps it is unattainable.

His *Narrative of the Discoveries in the great South Sea*, compiled from the original papers of Capt. Cooke, by the command of his Majesty, was a long and laborious undertaking, for which he received 5000*l.* besides the copyright. But no sum of money can compensate the literary credit which he on this occasion cruelly lost; and, indeed, the mortification he felt, from the illiberality it met with, is supposed, by many, to have shortened his days. He died, soon after the publication, November 16, 1773; and was buried at Bromley, where a handsome monument has been erected to his memory, on which is inscribed part of the very pathetick close of his admirable *Adventurer*.

Dr. Hawkesworth has given us few verses, but they are such as lead us to wish that he had produced more. Yet he was, perhaps, unwilling to be considered merely as a pleasing poet, and felt no consciousness of possessing the powers of a great one. As a moral author, he must ever rank high in the estimation of every feeling and cultivated mind.



Engraved by Harrison. Ed. "Omn." 1794.

OLIVER CROMWELL.

THE life of this extraordinary man, who reigned, under the title of Protector of the Commonwealth, with more than kingly authority, affords the most salutary lesson to a nation which is seldom free from factions: nor can the history of our country, preceding that unhappy period, as well as during its continuance, and immediately after its termination, be too frequently recurred to, if we would avoid being again tempted, by any artifices, to hazard the guilt and certain misery of a similar situation.

Oliver Cromwell was born at Huntingdon, the 25th of April 1599; and, in his seventeenth year, became a student of Sidney College, Cambridge.

Of such a character it were absurd not to suppose, that the greatest brilliancy of talents would be ascribed by some, and the most incorrigible dulness by others. Out of the mass of contrarieties, truth is not easily discovered. He appears to have been ever of a bold and enterprising disposition; and it is, we believe, universally granted, that his youth was tainted by every species of debauchery, so that he soon squandered what his father had bequeathed him. He now assumed a very grave and puritanical deportment; and, an estate of about 400 l. a year devolving to him by the death of his uncle, Sir Thomas Stewart, he became a member of the third parliament of Charles I. which met January 20, 1628. The parliament no sooner came to an open rupture with the king, than Cromwell obtained a captain's commission, and began his military career by securing the town of Cambridge. His rapid promotions, his distinguished success, and the everlasting stain on his name for the treacherous murder of his sovereign, form some of the most interesting passages of the British history.

His dissolution of the Long Parliament, by seizing the mace, and turning all the members out of the house, was one of the most daring measures ever attempted by an individual. This event took place on the 20th of April 1653; and on the 16th of December he was invested with the supreme authority, under the title of Lord Protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland. After ruling for five years, with such vigorous exertions as made him the terror of his foes, both foreign and domestick, he died on the 3d of September 1658; leaving it difficult for posterity to decide, whether he was a well-meaning though mistaken christian, or the most consummate hypocrite that ever existed.

From the rigid severity of manners, which had been exacted under the sway of Cromwell, the nation relaxed, at the Restoration, into the opposite extreme; and hailed, as a blessing, the most licentious reign of a lawful sovereign, that has ever disgraced the British annals.



Published by Harrison & Co. Dec. 7. 1794.

SOAME JENYNS, ESQ.

THIS distinguished writer, and most accomplished gentleman, the son of Sir Roger Jenyns, was born in Great Ormond Street, London, exactly at twelve o'clock at night, on the termination of the year 1703, and commencement of 1704. The hour of his birth he often mentioned: observing, in his pleasant manner, that he considered himself at liberty to chuse his own birth-day; and, preferring the birth of the year to the day of it's death, made choice of New Year's Day, which in all civilized countries is celebrated as a day of general festivity.

The country residence of his father was at Ely, in the Isle of Ely; but he afterwards purchased Bottisham Hall, in the village of Bottisham, near Cambridge. The mother of our author was a daughter of Sir Peter Soame, Bart. of Hayden, in the county of Essex. From this amiable woman, he derived not only his christian name, but his christian principles; for she superintended his early education, and laid herself the basis of his religion and learning. Under able tutors, at his father's house, he produced admirable exercises in Greek, Latin, and English; and, in 1722, went to St. John's College, Cambridge.

On quitting the university, he continued to reside with his father; and, in 1728, published his first poem, the Art of Dancing. Soon after his father's death, at the general election, in 1742, he was unanimously chosen one of the representatives for the county of Cambridge; and, from that time, till the year 1750, had constantly a seat in parliament.

In 1755, he was appointed, by his late Majesty, George II. one of the lords commissioners of trade and plantations; in which situation he remained till the dissolution of that board.

He died in London, the 18th of December 1787; and was buried at Bottisham, where the learned and Reverend William Lort Mansell, Publick Orator of the University of Cambridge, in the register of burials for that year, departing from the usual forms—"regrets the loss of one of the *most amiable of men*, and one of the *truest Christians*;" for which he handsomely apologizes, by declaring, that it is, "merely because he thinks it to be the most solemn and lasting method of recording to posterity, that the *finest understanding* has been united to the *best heart*."

The literary productions of Soame Jenyns, if we except his Free Enquiry into the Nature and Origin of Evil, and his celebrated View of the Internal Evidence of the Christian Religion, are of a very miscellaneous nature. His poems, translations, and imitations, which enrich every collection of repute, abound with wit and humour; and his various essays breathe the pure spirit of christian philanthropy.



Published by Sturges. S.C. Dec. 1. 1794.

PETER THE GREAT.

THE life of this singular sovereign has more the air of ancient romance than of recent authentick history. He was the son of the Czar Alexis Michaelowits, by his second wife, and born the 30th of May 1672. Peter, at the age of ten years, was proclaimed Czar, to the exclusion of his elder brother, who was of a weak body and still weaker mind. The Strelitzes, or body guard, made an insurrection in favour of John; to which they were instigated by the Princess Sophia, who was his own sister, and thus hoped to become sole regent. The matter was at length compromised, by an agreement that the two brothers should jointly share the imperial dignity. The Russian education was at that time, like the country, compleatly barbarous, so that Peter had acquired no advantages; and his half-sister, who was a truly ambitious and designing woman, employed every art to debase and enervate the native energies of his vigorous mind. In his tenderest years, however, the love of military hardiment prevailed over all the allurements of enfeebling pleasure. He formed a company of fifty men, commanded by foreign officers, and cloathed and disciplined after the German manner. In this corps, he entered himself as a private soldier, and performed all the duties of that humble station. He subsisted on his pay only; lay in an ordinary tent; and would not even be raised to the rank of serjeant till he entitled himself to that situation. All this was regarded as mere trifling, but he had higher views.

In 1696, the Czar John died, and Peter became sole master of the Russian empire. Two years afterwards, he went to Holland, where he worked as a common ship-builder for a considerable time, that he might acquire a competent knowledge of an art which he perceived would be necessary to render his own country respectable. The history of his travels, studies, and fatigues, for the attainment of knowledge in civil and military affairs; his introduction of arts and sciences, a naval force, and commerce with foreign nations; his many reformations in church and state, and in the customs and manners of his people; his wars with the Swedes, Turks, Tartars, and Persians; his victories by sea and land, acquisitions of territory, and increase of power; his patronage of genius and merit; and his charitable institutions; taken all together, very justly entitled him to the appellation which he obtained—"Peter the Great, the Father of his Country."

He died January 28, 1725; at the age of fifty-three.

The Czar wrote several productions on the subject of naval affairs; and his name must therefore be added to the short catalogue of Royal Authors.



Redesigned by J. Smith, Esq. 1774.

SYDENHAM.

THOMAS SYDENHAM, usually considered as the father of modern physicians, was the son of William Sydenham, Esq. of Winford Eagle, in Dorsetshire, where he was born about the year 1624.

In 1642, he went to Magdalen College, Oxford; but quitted the university, on it's being turned into a garrison for Charles I. and is said to have become an officer in the opposing army.

After Oxford was delivered up to the parliament, he returned to college; and, in April 1648, was created batchelor of physick.

Having for some years vigorously applied himself to study, he settled in Westminster; became doctor of his faculty, at Cambridge; a licentiate of the College of Physicians; and, from 1660, to 1670, the chief physician of his time.

About this period, his activity began to be restrained by frequent visitations of the gout; yet his fame was continually increasing, both at home and abroad, not only by his judicious practice, but by the occasional publication of his invaluable writings.

He died at his house, in Pall Mall, the 29th of December 1689; and was buried in St. James's church.

The works of Sydenham have been collected, and frequently printed, not only in England, but in most countries of Europe. They were all first written in English; and translated into Latin, prior to their publication, by his friends. His "*Observationes Medicæ circa Morborum acutorum Historiam & Curationem*," which he dedicated to Dr. Mapletoft, Professor of Physick, in Gresham College, was translated by that gentleman: his other pieces, by Mr. Gilbert Havers, of Trinity College, Cambridge; a student in physick, and friend of Dr. Mapletoft. This may be supposed to have arisen from a diffidence of his own ability to write elegant Latin.

Sydenham tells us, in the preface to his works, that the perfection of the medical art is to be advanced by two means: first, composing a history of distempers, or a natural and exact description of distempers and their symptoms; and afterwards, by deducing, and establishing from thence, a method of cure. This is the way which Lord Bacon, that great delineator of the right road to real knowledge, in all it's branches, has pointed out; and it was by Sydenham's more closely pursuing it than any other modern professor of the healing arts, that he acquired so much merited celebrity.

It was the boast of Sydenham, that his method received the approbation of Locke; who has addressed him in a Latin copy of hexameter and pentameter verses, prefixed to the Treatise on Fevers.



Published by Harrison & Co. Jan. 7. 1790.

COWLEY.

THE father of ABRAHAM COWLEY, one of our chief poets, was a grocer in London, who died before the birth of his son, which happened in 1618. His poetical powers very early appeared; and are said to have been excited by the frequent perusal of Spenser, whose works accidentally lay in the window of his mother's apartment. Through the interest of friends, he was admitted a king's scholar at Westminster School; and, at the age of thirteen, published a collection of poems, under the title of Poetical Blossoms. The tragical History of Pyramis and Thisbe, was written when he was only ten. He also wrote, while at Westminster School, his pastoral comedy, called, Love's Riddle; though it was not published till he had been two years at Cambridge, to which university he went in 1636.

In 1643, being ejected by the parliament from Cambridge, he took shelter at St. John's, Oxford; where he published a satire, called, the Puritan and Papist; and, by his loyalty and elegant conversation, gained the friendship of the good Lord Falkland, and other noble attendants on the king. Having accompanied the queen to Paris, he was employed in services of the highest confidence and honour, for several years. He was even entrusted to cypher and decypher the letters which passed between their majesties; and he performed several hazardous journies to Jersey, Scotland, Flanders, and Holland. Being privately dispatched to England, in 1656, he was seized, by mistake, in the search after a royalist of distinction, and committed to prison. Dr. Scarborough, however, procured his enlargement, by becoming bail for 1000*l*. This year he published his poems; and, in the year following, was made a Doctor of Physick, at Oxford. On the death of Cromwell, he returned to France, where he remained till the Restoration.

At length, he was enabled to gratify that ardent desire of rural retirement, which he had long sighed for; first at Barn Elms, and afterwards at Chertsey, in Surrey. At this last place, however, he died in 1667, the 49th year of his age. He was buried with great pomp, near Chaucer and Spenser, in Westminster Abbey; and Charles II. may be considered as having pronounced his funeral eulogium, by observing, that Mr. Cowley had not left a better man behind him in England.

"The fault of Cowley," says Dr. Johnson, "and perhaps of all the writers of the metaphysical race, is that of pursuing his thoughts to their last ramifications, by which he loses the grandeur of generality." Our poet is represented, by Clarendon, as having taken a flight beyond all that preceded him; and Milton is reported to have said, that the three greatest English poets, were Spenser, Shakspeare, and Cowley.



Published by Harrison 88. Jan. 1. 1795.

SIR SAMUEL GARTH.

OF this distinguished poet, and very eminent physician, descended from a good family in Yorkshire, little appears to be known—farther than his attachment to study at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine—till he was admitted Fellow of the College of Physicians, in 1692, and began to practice in London. By his conversation and accomplishments he now soon became greatly distinguished.

The College of Physicians had for some time been engaged in a most laudable plan of prescribing gratis to the sick poor, and supplying them with genuine medicines at prime-cost. This not being relished by the apothecaries, they at length found means to raise, in the college, a powerful party against it. On which our philanthropick physician and poet was so provoked, that he resolved to expose the destroyers of this benevolent institution. Accordingly, in pursuance of his design, he produced that excellent poem, the Dispensary, which came out in 1699, and compleatly established his reputation.

In 1703, the famous Kit-Kat Club, so called from one Christopher Kat, a pastry-cook, in King Street, Westminster, who supplied the club with tarts, &c. was established; consisting of thirty noblemen and gentlemen, distinguished by their talents, as well as by their zeal for the Protestant succession in the House of Hanover: of this association, Garth was one of the first and most active members; and greatly distinguished himself by the extempore epigrams he made on the toasts of the club, which were inscribed on their drinking-glasses.

At the accession of George I. his merits were acknowledged and rewarded. He had the honour to be knighted with the sword of his friend, the great Duke of Marlborough; and was made physician to the king, and physician general to the army.

His last work was an edition of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, translated by several hands; which he recommended by an ingenious preface. Ovid appears to have been our poet's favourite author, and the model to which he aspired, in his humours, in his manners, and in his poetry.

Sir Samuel Garth died in January 1718, and was buried at Harrow on the Hill. He has been accused of voluptuousness, and irreligion; Pope, however, says, "if ever there was a good Christian, without knowing himself to be so, it was Dr. Garth;" he afterwards declares himself convinced, that Garth died a Roman Catholic. It has been observed, by Lowth, that there is less distance than is thought between scepticism and popery; and that a mind, wearied with perpetual doubt, willingly seeks repose in the bosom of a church which pretends to infallibility.



Published by Harrison & Co. Jan. 1798.

SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE.

THIS illustrious English lawyer was born in Cheapside, London, July 10, 1723. His father, an eminent silkman, died before the birth of his son; who was educated at the Charter House, and from thence, in 1738, entered a commoner of Pembroke College, Oxford. At this early period of life, he obtained Mr. Benson's gold prize-medal of Milton, for verses on that poet; and, before he was twenty, though entered a student of the Middle Temple, as well as at the university, and pursuing with ardour his favourite study of the classicks, with logick, mathematicks, &c. he compiled, for his own use only, an ingenious treatise on the Elements of Architecture.

In November 1746, he was called to the bar; and few lovers of poetry are unacquainted with his celebrated Lawyer's Farewell to the Muses. Three years afterwards, he was elected Recorder of the Borough of Wallingford, in Berkshire; and, in April 1750, became Doctor of Laws. Though so able a lawyer, as he did not possess the popular powers of oratory, his profits at the bar were for many years insufficient to defray the contingent expences!

In 1754, he began to read his Lectures on the Laws of England; publishing, in 1755, his Analysis of these laws, as a guide to his auditors. On the 20th of October 1758, he was unanimously elected Vinerian Professor of the Common Law; and, on the 25th, read his Introductory Lecture, since prefixed to his Commentaries.

In 1762, he republished several of his pieces, under the title of Law Tracts, in 2 vols. 8vo. and, the year following, became Solicitor-General to the queen, and a Bencher of the Middle Temple.

The month of November 1764, presented the first volume of his Lectures, under the title of Commentaries on the Laws of England; and, in the succeeding years, the other three volumes. This celebrated work astonished the world, by giving to law literature a polish of which it was not thought to be susceptible. In no former instance, had sound legal knowledge, and elegant literature, been so happily united. In 1770, the abilities of this great and good man were rewarded by his being made one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas; and the remainder of his life was continually employed either in his professional duties, or in some plan of publick utility: the last of these services was the famous act of parliament for solitary imprisonment and hard labour, instead of transportation. He died, February 14, 1780. Since his death, have been published, pursuant to his will, Reports of Cases determined in the several Courts of Westminster, from 1746, to 1779, in 2 vols. folio.



Published by Harrison & Co. Jan. 1790.

COLLEY CIBBER.

THOUGH every poet-laureat must be expected to attract a considerable portion of envy, few have been so severely handled as this ingenious man. He was born at London, November 6, 1671; and was the son of Caius Gabriel Cibber, a native of Holstein, and a very eminent sculptor, who executed the celebrated basso relievo on the pedestal of the Monument, and the matchless figures of the raving and the melancholy Maniacs, over the gates of Bethlehem Hospital.

Having received a respectable education, at the free-school of Grantham, in Lincolnshire, he was preparing for the university, being intended for the church; but the Revolution of 1688, happening at this time, and his father being employed, with other artists, at Chatsworth, he was induced to take up arms in favour of the Prince of Orange, under the Earl of Devonshire.

He had, however, early felt an inclination for the stage; and in this he soon found means to indulge, though at the slender salary of ten shillings a week. By the recommendation of Congreve, he performed the part of Lord Touchwood, in the *Double Dealer*; and, afterwards, that of Fondlewife, in the *Old Batchelor*. He now began to rise into notice; and, having written his first play, *Love's Last Shift*, he so well performed *Sir Novelty Fashion*, that he was ever after considered as the first fop on the stage.

The *Careless Husband* has always been esteemed Cibber's best play; and the character of Lord Foppington his best performance: but the *Nonjuror*, acted in 1717, proved by far the most lucrative, since it procured him an immediate present of 200*l.* from George I. as well as the laureatship from George II. in 1730. At this period, he quitted the stage; though, having become manager, he occasionally appeared, particularly in his own tragedy of *Papal Tyranny*, acted in 1744, when he was upwards of seventy. He survived till December 1757.

Cibber collected such of his plays as he thought worth preserving, and published them in 2 vols. 4to. His letter to Pope, charges that poet's rancour to the account of the *Nonjuror*; Fielding has fastened on his *Apology* for his own *Life*. The latter, we suspect, had experienced some dramatick disappointment, which he ascribed to Cibber.

That nothing can be more insipid than our laureat's odes, we do not feel inclined to deny; nor will we contend, that he has any farther claim to be considered as a poet, than what is derivable from the creative faculty manifested in some of his comedies. Envy's self must acknowledge, that such characters could not have been conceived, discriminated, and drawn, without the presence of genius.



—Published by Harrison 46, Jan. 1. 1796.

RAPIN.

PAUL DE RAPIN, DE THOYRAS, to whom, though a Frenchman, we are indebted for our most impartial History of England, was born in the year 1661, at Castres, in the province of Languedoc. He was the youngest son of James de Rapin, Lord of Thoyras; a protestant advocate, in the Chamber of the Edict of Nantes, who died in 1685. The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes happening soon afterwards, to avoid persecution, he visited England, with his younger brother; but, not finding any employ, soon departed for Holland, where he joined a company of French volunteers at Utrecht, commanded by his cousin.

In 1688, he accompanied the Prince of Orange to England; and, the next year, went to Ireland with a pair of colours. He so distinguished himself at the siege of Carrickfergus, that he was promoted to a lieutenancy; assisted at the battle of the Boyne; and, at the siege of Limerick, was shot through the shoulder with a musket-ball. Having had a company given him, he continued in Ireland till the end of 1693; when he was ordered for England, and appointed governor to the Earl of Portland's son.

While the Earl was Ambassador in France, Rapin was obliged sometimes to be in that kingdom, sometimes in England, and often in Holland: but, in 1699, being settled at the Hague, he married. He afterwards travelled, with his pupil, through Germany and Italy; and, having fully discharged his duties to that young nobleman, remained for some years with his family at the Hague. Finding, however, that his offspring increased too fast for his finances, he resolved to seek a cheaper country; and accordingly, in 1707, retired to Wesel, in the Dutchy of Cleves, in Germany, where he employed the remaining years of his life in writing the History of England. His constitution was at this time strong; but a continued application of seventeen years to that great work, completely ruined it. Three years preceding his death, he felt himself exhausted, and often complained of severe pains in his stomach: a fever, with an oppression in his breast, at length terminated his existence, in 1725. He left one son, and six daughters.

In 1717, to demonstrate the knowledge he possessed of our parties and factions, Rapin had produced his Dissertation on the Whigs and the Tories, which is annexed to his History of England. This celebrated History ends with the accession of William and Mary, in 1689. It was written in French; and has been translated by the Reverend Mr. Tindal, a faithful but inelegant writer, who continued it to 1760, and added notes to the whole.



Published by Harrison & Co. Jan. 1790.

LEONARDO DA VINCI.

THIS illustrious Italian painter, and universal genius, was born at the castle of Vinci, near the city of Florence, in 1445. He was placed under Andrea Verrochio, a celebrated painter at Florence, whom he soon greatly excelled. There is, indeed, scarcely any art, science, or even accomplishment, of which he is not said to have been a complete master. His fame overspread Italy; and Lewis Sforza, Duke of Milan, inviting him to his court, and appointing him director of the Academy for Architecture, then just established, Leonardo banished all the old Gothick fashions, and reduced every thing to the chaste simplicity of the Greeks and Romans. He also formed that wonderful canal, 200 miles in length, which conducts the waters of the Adda to the walls of Milan. The wars of Italy, in which the Duke was defeated, and carried prisoner to France, obliged Leonardo to quit Milan, and retire to Florence, where he flourished under the patronage of the Medici. In 1503, he was elected, by a publick decree, to paint the grand council-chamber of the Florentines, in which Michael Angelo assisted him. After remaining many years at Florence, he visited Rome; but, finding Leo X. partial to Michael Angelo, he accepted an invitation from Francis I. and removed into France. He was now grown old; and, having become very infirm, in the year 1520, he languished many months at Fontainebleau. The king frequently visited him; and, one day, as he was raising himself up in bed, to thank his majesty for so much honour, he was seized with a fainting fit. Francis stooped to support him, and he expired in the arms of that sovereign.

Nature has seldom been more lavish, than in the composition of this great man. He left few things unattempted, and succeeded in all that he undertook. As a painter, his chief excellence lay in giving every thing its proper character. Though extremely diligent in the performance of his works, he was very diffident of himself; and so nice in his judgment, that he left several pieces unfinished, from a belief that his hand would never be able to reach that idea of perfection which his mind had conceived.

There are a few of his paintings in England; but most of them are at Florence, and in France. His literary works were numerous, and on several curious subjects; particularly, the Nature, Equilibrium, and Motion of Water—a Treatise on Anatomy—The Anatomy of a Horse—a Treatise of Perspective—a Treatise of Light and Shadows—and a Treatise of the Art of Painting. This last, however, is the only work known; and was first published at Paris, by R. Du Fresne, in 1651, with figures by Nicholas Poussin.



Published by Harrison & Co. Feb. 2. 1795.

DR. AKENSIDE.

MARK AKENSIDE, the poet and physician, like the great Cardinal Wolsey, was the son of a butcher. His father was of the Presbyterian sect, and resided at Newcastle upon Tyne; where, on the 9th of November 1721, our poet was born. He gave early proofs of possessing genius; and, at the age of eighteen, with a view of qualifying him for the office of a dissenting minister, was sent to Edinburgh; where, however, he soon quitted the study of divinity for that of physick. In pursuit of medical knowledge, he went to Leyden; where he studied three years, and took a doctor's degree, having greatly distinguished himself by an excellent thesis on the Origin and Growth of the Human Foetus.

His greatest work, the *Pleasures of Imagination*, appeared in 1744. Dodsley, by whom it was published, on the copy being offered him at the price of a hundred and twenty pounds, took it to Pope; who advised him not to make a niggardly offer, as *this was no every-day writer*.

In 1745, soon after his return from Leyden, he published his first collection of Odes; "and was impelled," says Dr. Johnson, "by his rage of patriotism, to write a very acrimonious Epistle to Pulteney, whom he stigmatizes under the name of Curio, as the betrayer of his country."

Having in vain tried to establish himself in his professional practice, at Northampton first, and afterwards at Hampstead, he at length settled in London. Here, too, notwithstanding his great abilities, he would probably have experienced many difficulties, had not Mr. Dyson, with a friendship which has few examples, allowed him 300l. a year. He now became a Fellow of the Royal Society, obtained a degree at Cambridge, and was elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians, and one of the Physicians of St. Thomas's Hospital. On the establishment of the Queen's household, he was appointed Physician to her Majesty.

He published a Latin treatise on the Dysentery, in 1764; which, Dr. Johnson remarks, "entitled him to the same height of place among the scholars, as he possessed before among the wits." In the first volume of the *Medical Transactions of the College*, printed in 1768, are three ingenious articles by our author: *Observations on Cancers*; the *Use of Ipecacuanah in Asthmas*; and a *Method of treating White Swellings in the Joints*.

He died of a putrid fever, June 23, 1770, in the forty-ninth year of his age; and was buried in the parish church of St. James, Westminster.

Akenside, though unquestionably a skilful physician, is chiefly to be considered as a didactic and a lyric poet. He intended to have revised and augmented his *Pleasures of Imagination*; and the reformed poem, as he left it, is printed with the original, in the collection of his poems.

SECRET



Published by Harrison & Co. Feb. 1. 1795.

SAMUEL FOOTE, ESQ.

ALL that we know respecting the early days of our English Aristophanes, is merely that he was born at Truro, in Cornwall; that, from Worcester College, Oxford, he was placed, as a law student, in the Temple; and that, owing to his excessive vivacity and volatility of spirits, he was induced to quit the law, and turn his attention to the stage.

In 1747, he opened the little theatre in the Haymarket, with a drama of his own, called, the Diversions of the Morning; which was nothing more than a vehicle for the introduction of well-known characters, whose peculiarities he had the faculty of representing, in voice, gesture, and appearance, with a skill which has, perhaps, never been equalled. The next season he produced a novelty of the same description, which he called an Auction of Pictures. In these pieces, he represented all the principal characters; shifting from one to the other with the dexterity of a Proteus.

He afterwards, for several years, performed a few nights at one of the theatres; usually in some new pieces of his own. At length he obtained a patent to open the theatre in the Haymarket every summer; and, though he had the misfortune to break his leg, by a fall from his horse, and was obliged to suffer amputation, he performed, by means of an artificial leg, for many years, with his accustomed spirit and success.

In 1776, his Trip to Calais excited the resentment of the famous Dutchess of Kingston; and gave rise to a controversy, in which her Grace's champions were disgracefully defeated by our author's inimitable wit. A dreadful, and a diabolical vengeance, however, pursued him. He was soon after accused of unnatural practices, and actually brought to trial for the most abominable of all human crimes; and, though he was honourably acquitted, the keen sense of having for a moment laboured under such an imputation, shortened the existence which was thus rendered insupportable.

It is true, that he again appeared on the stage; and that the most brilliant audiences thundered their conviction of his innocence; but, while he was one night performing, he was seized with a paralytick fit. He recovered sufficiently to spend the summer at Brighthelmstone; but, being advised, on the approach of winter, to visit the south of France, he went to Dover, for that purpose, October 20, 1777; where he was next morning seized with a shivering fit, and died in a few hours.

His dramatick productions are upwards of twenty; and they are in general compositions of extraordinary wit and humour: but, from the local or temporary allusions, as well as the gross personalities, with which they abound, few of them are calculated to live.



Published by Harrison & Co. Feb. 1795.

SIR RICHARD STEELE.

THOUGH Sir Richard Steele was born at Dublin, his parents were both natives of England; and he quitted Ireland very young, being educated with his friend Addison at the Charter House, London.

He first became an author while an ensign in the Guards; and wrote the Christian Hero for his own private use, which was published in 1701. His comedy of the Funeral, or Grief Alamode, was performed the following year. Being introduced, by Mr. Addison, to the Earls of Halifax and Sunderland, their interest obtained him the office of Gazette writer; "where he worked faithfully, according to order, without "erring," he says, "against the rule observed by all ministers, to "keep that paper very innocent and very insipid."

In 1703, his Tender Husband was performed; and, in 1704, his Lying Lovers. It was not till 1709, that he laid the foundation of those series of periodical essays, which have obtained the name of British Classics, by commencing that celebrated paper, the Tatler. This greatly increased his reputation, and he was soon after made one of the Commissioners of the Stamp-Office. The Tatler being concluded, he began, in conjunction with Addison, that incomparable work, the Spectator; which was succeeded by the scarcely less celebrated Guardian.

In June 1713, having previously resigned his place as Commissioner of the Stamp-Office, he was returned to parliament for Stockbridge in Hampshire. In the year following, however, he was expelled the house, for having written some political essays. He now wrote an Apology for Himself and his Writings, which he dedicated to Robert Walpole, Esq. and, the next year, published a treatise, which he called, the Romish Ecclesiastical History of late Years; as well as the Lover, and the Reader, neither of which appear to have been successful.

Shortly after the accession of George I. he was made Surveyor of the Royal Stables at Hampton Court, Governor of the Royal Company of Comedians, and a Magistrate for the county of Middlesex: and, in 1715, he received the honour of knighthood.

It was probably through some offence, in the writings he was perpetually publishing, that he lost, in 1720, his dramatick patent. In 1722, however, his Conscious Lovers, being performed with great success, and dedicated to the King, he received a present of 500l. For some years before his death, he grew paralytick; and, retiring to his seat, at Llangunnor, near Caermarthen, in Wales, died there, September 3, 1729, and was privately interred, according to his own particular request.

Of Sir Richard Steele, as a writer, it is sufficient to say, that he was worthy of being the colleague of Addison.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON

Printed by J. Sturges, in Pall-mall

1724



Published by Harrison & Co. Feb. 1795.

NICHOLAS ROWE, ESQ.

THIS very respectable dramattick poet, son of John Rowe, Esq. serjeant at law, was born in 1673, at Little Berkford, in Bedfordshire.

He acquired great perfection in classical literature, under the celebrated Dr. Busby, at Westminster School. Being intended for his father's profession, he was, at the age of sixteen, entered as a student of the Middle Temple; and made great progress in legal knowledge, notwithstanding his steady attachment to the Muses.

At the age of twenty-five, his first tragedy, the *Ambitious Step-mother*, was performed with very great applause; and this success induced him to abandon all thoughts of rising by the law. In consequence of this resolution, he produced several tragedies; three of them—*Jane Shore*, *Tamerlane*, and the *Fair Penitent*—are still favourite stock pieces at our theatres: his less popular ones, are the *Royal Convert*, *Lady Jane Grey*, and *Ulysses*. He once attempted comedy, but egregiously failed. Rowe, though he not only wrote these dramattick pieces, but occasionally produced several poems, was indefatigable in his attention to business, as secretary for publick affairs; a situation to which he was appointed by the Duke of Queensbury, then secretary of state. After his Grace's decease, however, all avenues to his preferment were closed; and, the remainder of Queen Anne's reign, he dedicated to literary pursuits. Being a great admirer, and even professing himself an imitator, of Shakspeare, he published an edition of that poet's plays; to which he prefixed a biographical account of the immortal bard, which has accompanied most subsequent editions.

On the accession of George I. Mr. Rowe was made Poet-Laureat, as well as one of the Land Surveyors of the Customs in the Port of London. The Prince of Wales also conferred on him the Clerkship of his Council; and Lord Chancellor Parker made him his Secretary for Presentations. These promotions, however, he did not long enjoy; for he died, December 6, 1718, aged only forty-five years. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

The most considerable of our poet's performances, his translation of Lucan's *Pharsalia*, which he just lived to finish, was not published till ten years after his death.

Doctor Johnson has said, that Rowe's dramattick reputation arises “from the reasonableness and propriety of some of his scenes, from the elegance of his diction, and the suavity of his verse. He seldom moves either pity, or terror, but he often elevates the sentiments; he seldom pierces the breast, but he always delights the ear, and often improves the understanding.”



Published by Harrison & Co. Feb. 2 1795.

GENERAL WOLFE.

MAJOR General James Wolfe, one of our most heroick countrymen, in the fields of military renown, was the son of Lieutenant General Edward Wolfe, of Westerham, in Kent; where this illustrious warrior was born in January 1726, who appears to have received, from nature, all the requisites of a great military character. His comprehension was amazingly quick and clear, his judgment deep and penetrating, and his memory retentive. His constitutional courage was not only uniform, and daring to excess; but he possessed that higher order of magnanimity, distinguished by a fortitude, perseverance, and activity of mind, which no danger could deter, and no difficulties obstruct. In temper, though remarkably lively, he was not passionate; and, with a spirit of the truest independence, he was free from pride. He was profusely generous, benevolent, and charitable, and nobly disdainful of every little art that leads to the accumulation of riches. With him, the deserving soldier was sure to be rewarded, the unfortunate one to be relieved. His attachments were warm and constant; his deportment was manly and unreserved; and his manners were gentle, conciliating, and kind.

Having early embraced the profession of arms, at the battle of La Feldt, when scarcely twenty, he exerted himself, in so masterly a manner, as to obtain the highest encomiums; and, during the whole of that war, was present at every engagement, and never passed undistinguished.

In 1759, when he had just returned from his brilliant achievements at Louisbourg, the late Earl of Chatham wisely selected him to command the important expedition against Quebec. With skill and valour that nothing could surpass, he formed and executed that great and dangerous plan, which drew out the French to their defeat, and rendered him the conqueror of Canada. Within the grasp of victory, however, he received a ball through his wrist, which he immediately wrapped up, and continued to animate his troops as if nothing had happened; but, a few minutes afterwards, a second ball, passing through his body, obliged him to be carried off a small distance in the rear. There, fainting in the last agonies, he was suddenly called back to life, by the sound of—"They run!" When, anxiously enquiring—"Who run?" and being answered—"The French."—"Thank God!" he fervently cried; "I die contented!" and almost instantly expired.

Never fell an officer more beloved! His loss was lamented not only by the army, but by the nation; and, being brought to England, he was interred with all military honours in Westminster Abbey; where a magnificent monument was gratefully erected to his memory.



Published by Harrison & Co. Feb. 2. 1795.

LORD LYTTELTON.

OUR illustrious statesman, historian, and poet, the great and good George Lord Lyttelton, as we have been accustomed to hear him deservedly called, was the son of Sir Thomas Lyttelton, of Hagley, in Worcestershire, and born in the year 1709. He was early an elegant writer, both in verse and prose. His *Blenheim*, we believe, was his first published production; but his *Progress of Love*, and his *Persian Letters*, were both written while he was very young. Dr. Johnson, speaking of the last, says that they "have something of that indistinct and headstrong ardour for liberty which a man of genius always catches when he enters the world, and always suffers to cool as he passes forward."

In 1728, he quitted Oxford, and went on his travels, to France and Italy. Soon after his return, he obtained a seat in parliament, and for many years strongly opposed Sir Robert Walpole, though his father was a Commissioner of the Admiralty, and consequently attached to the minister. In 1737, when the Prince of Wales quitted St. James's, and kept a separate court, he became Secretary to his Royal Highness, and advised him to patronize men of genius. Mallet was accordingly made Under Secretary, with 200*l.* and Thomson had a pension of 100*l.* a year.

In 1741, he married Miss Lucy Fortescue, sister to Lord Fortescue, of Devonshire. With this accomplished lady, by whom he had a son, the late Lord Lyttelton, and two daughters, he lived in the highest degree of connubial felicity; but, after about five years, she died in child-bed. He solaced his grief, by writing the excellent Monody to her Memory: and, at length, sought happiness by a second marriage, with the daughter of Sir Robert Rich, but was not equally successful.

In 1744, on the retreat of Sir Robert Walpole, he became one of the Lords of the Treasury, and was from that time engaged in supporting the ministry. Politics, however, did not alone engross his attention; for, in 1747, he published his celebrated *Observations on the Conversion of St. Paul*: "a treatise," says Dr. Johnson, "to which infidelity has never been able to fabricate a specious answer."

In 1755, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer; in 1756, published his celebrated *Dialogues of the Dead*; and, in 1757, was created a peer.

His last literary work, was the famous *History of Henry the Second*; which had employed much of his time during a period of twenty years.

He died at Hagley, his favourite seat; where the following inscription is cut on the side of his Lady's monument—

"This adorned stone was placed here by the particular desire and express

"directions of the Right Honourable

"GEORGE LORD LYTTELTON;

"who died August 22, 1773, aged 64."

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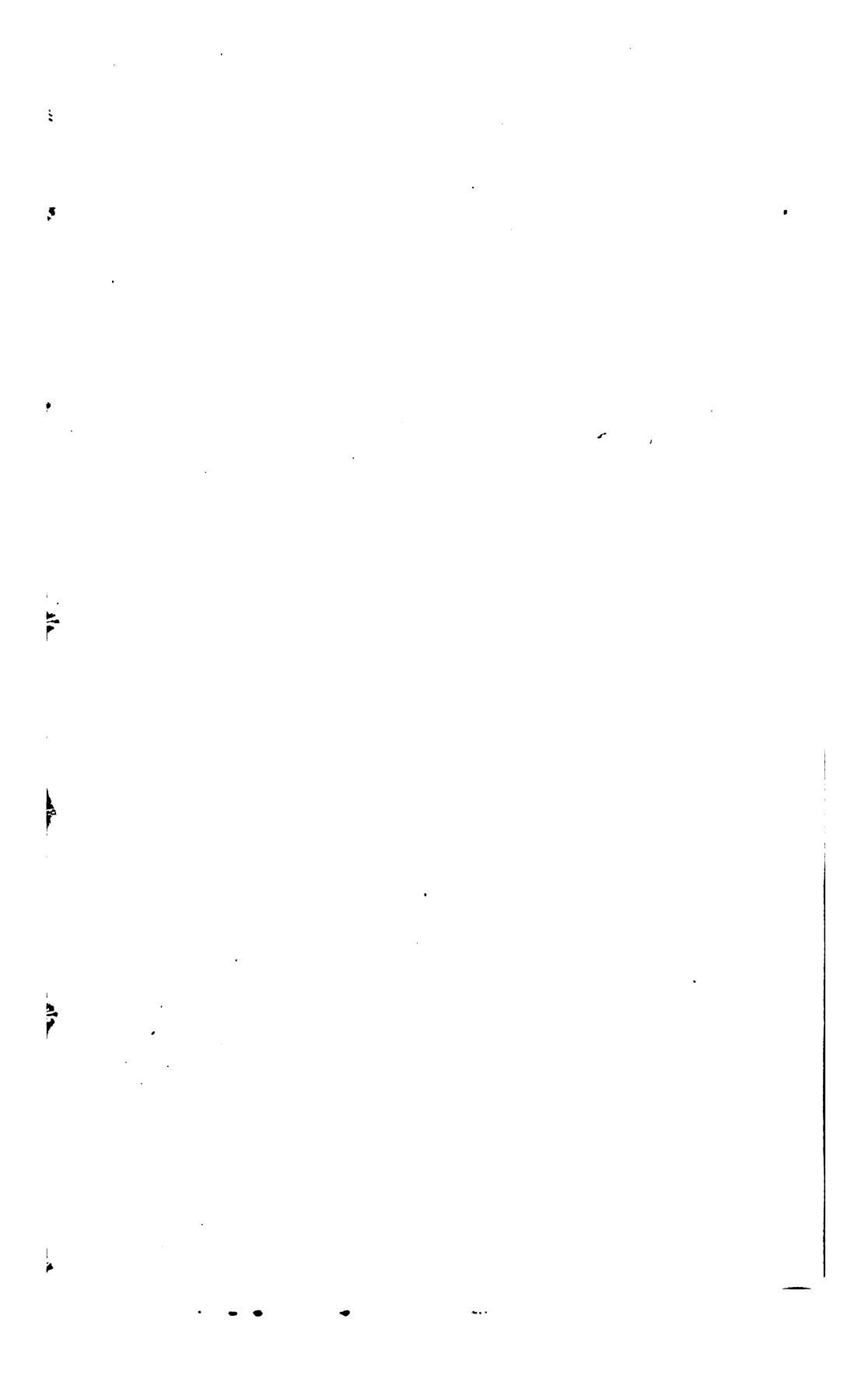
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